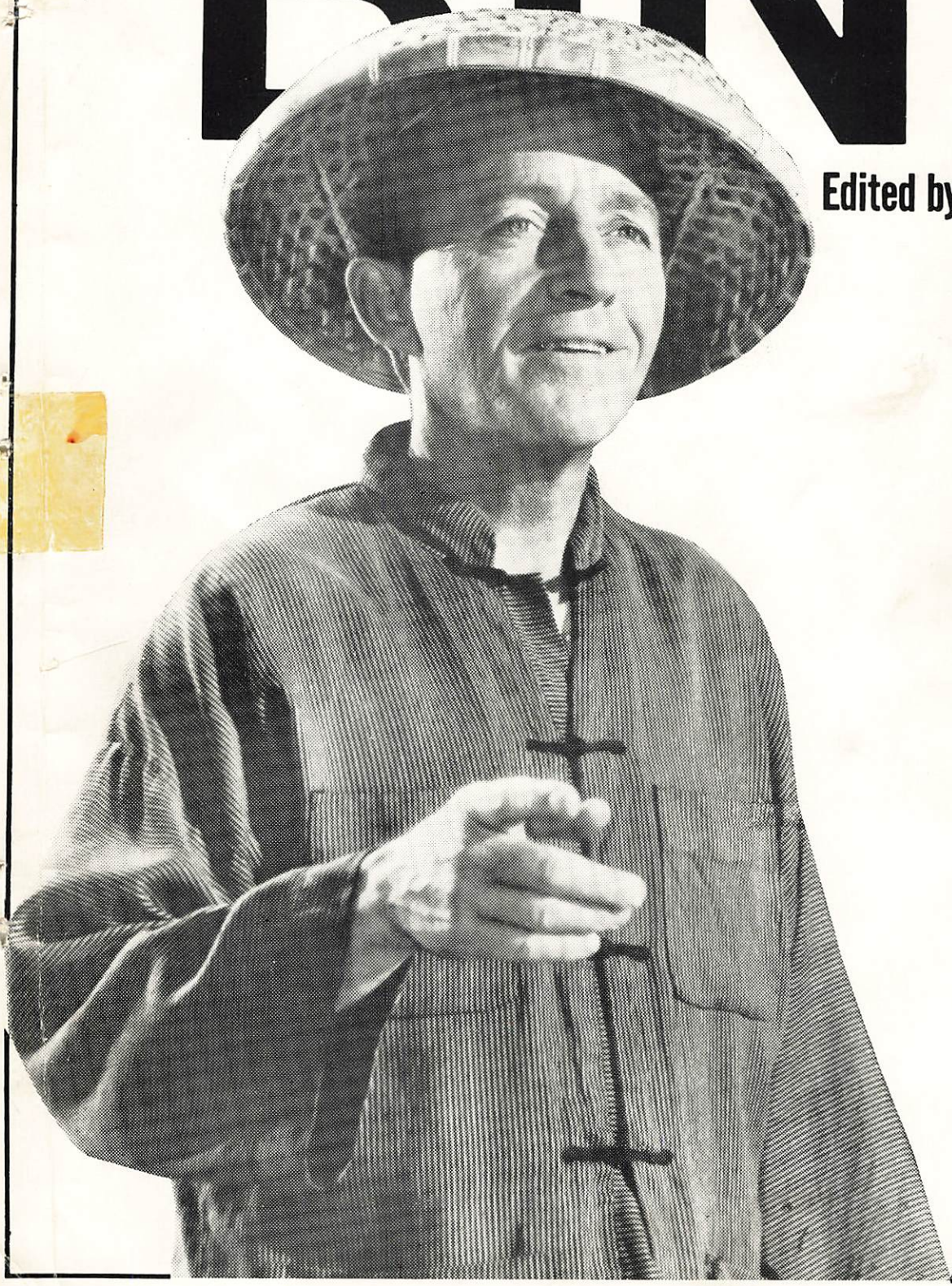
Aug 1959

THE INTERNATIONAL CROSBY CIRCLE PRESENTS

BING

Edited by Frank Murphy



FM PROMOTIONS

AJR/STUDIOS

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BING CROSBY

THE INTERNATIONAL CROSBY CIRCLE
incorporating
THE BRITISH CROSBY SOCIETY
founded 1950

Hon Vice-President;
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"BING" the official private journal of THE INTERNATIONAL CROSBY CIRCLE is issued quarterly on the 5th of FEBUARY: MAY: AUGUST and NOVEMBER. The magazine is produced and distributed free of cost to registered subscribers by Frank Murphy to whom all material should be sent.

Whem your annual subscribtion is due a special renewal notice will be included with your magazine.

When writing to any of the clubs officers please ALWAYS extend the courtesy of a stamped self addressed envelope.

Honorary members include;
STAN WHITE-former Publicity officer; MICK DRURY- . KATHRYN CROSBY:
JOHN SCOTT TROTTER; DOUGLAS ENEFER-Newcastle Evening Chronicle

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THE INTERNATIONAL CROSBY CIRCLE
presents
Issue No 15 "BING" AUG.5. 1969

HIGHLIGHTS OF THIS ISSUE

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Cover-Bob Crosby and family - courtesy Fred Romary

SOUVENIR PHOTO SET of the club meeting held at North Shields on Wed July 9. 69

(I) John Maughan, Billy Bell
(2) Alec Mackin, Frank Murphy (Australian souvenir from Keith in the background)
(3) Billy Bell, John Maughan, Brian Mitchell, Frank Murphy
(4) Brian Mitchell, Alec Mackin (Bing photo in the background)
(5) Frank Murphy, Brian Mitchell, Cyril Duncombe

All of these great shots are in COLOUR and the price per set is I2/6 UK - USA $I-75. Australia $I.50

With each set will be included absolutely free a FULL ACTION SHOT of Frank "Deano" Murphy, on-stage at the Empire Cinema, Jarrow, Co Durham

All orders should be sent to JOHN MAUGHAN By the closing date of SEPT 30 - delivery one week after approx.

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New member SALLY HEDGES of 98 Shakespeare Road, Gillingham Kent urgently requires the HOW THE WEST WAS WON albums by Bing - if you can help, please write to Sally at the above address.

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Stan White, Reg Bristo and Frank Murphy are at present discussing the issue of a special souvenir magazine to mark the retirement of Blackpools REGINALD DIXON watch the pages of "BING" and "THE GOLDEN YEARS" for more details of this special promotion

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Fans of GERALDO who are interested in supporting a petition to secure the release of an LP featuring GERALDO are requested to write to Mr C Ward, "Shoulder Buff" 6 Sussex Court, Grove Road, Barnes, London SW13.

BING CROSBY

June 5, 1969

Dear Friends;

Many thanks for remembering me on my birthday.
Your thoughtfulness is greatly appreciated.

Best wishes to all -

Sincerely,

signed BING

BC:vs

Bing Crosby

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ISRAELI REPORT.....SAMUEL STERNBERG

On page 22 of the January issue of FILMS IN REVIEW, Bing is featured in a photo taken from his Mack Sennett short JUST ONE MORE CHANCE.

A new Crosby album has just been released in Israel, titled, JOIN BING AND SING ALONG, which contains no less than 50 favorite tunes. It is a Project Records Inc Production by Warner Bros, No 1422. Outer sleev does not make mention that this record was printed here, but on the inner label I could detact between those smallest letters, it was made by.. MFD in Israel for Gal Ron, Ltd, Licensee. So far as I know this is the first time such a record has been dubbed in Israel. I thought this fact to be mentioned and cheer up! At long last...Personally I'm quite satisfied and so should Bing.

Egyptian T.V. Station is screening a "Bing Crosby Production Enterprise" BEN CASEY with title music by David Raksin. This comes as a surprise to me. Could you perhaps comment on these activities for a chance. A little article would be fine.

On Friday June 27th our Armed Radio Station GALLE-ZAHAL introduced Bing's new record HEY JUDE. Bringing this song and a second from the record, the narrator must have been a young soldier himself, praising Bing for his adaptability at his age wbich he recalled as 65, there was some augument on the programme about this matter, but he did not seem to be too concerned about the differences of opinion on this matter. He said the way of singing was more important to the audience,. Myself I thought it interesting to point out that Bing's singing is more favoured by this station which is handled by a group of youngsters, many of them hardly 18 to 20 years old, than by the other radio station we have here, The National Broadcasting Service, which is intended for a more mature public, naturally.
You can drop your own conclusion from this fact. Of course everyone on the programme started to make comparison with the famous Beatles towards Bing's singing. As the difference is really too big the debate stayed open at the end. I say, urgmenting Bing's singing and style these days is really something. Personally I must admit I was really surprised to hear that record for the first time. I believe the unusual orchestration for Bing's singing left me thinking. I mean, one could not start enjoying Bing at once because of the strange combination. Anyhow that is how I felt at the moment.

In closing I would mention that the Cinerama film mentioned on page 32 of the last issue should be RUSSIAN HOLIDAY.....Lots of good wishes to all members of the ICC.....Samuel.

PRESS CUTTINGS
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* A selection of press cuttings *
* from AROUND THE WORLD *
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The Advance Star - Burlingame, California - 23-4-69
COLLEGE WINDFALL DER BINGLES $1,000,000 GIFT

Mr and Mrs Bing Crosby of Hillsborough have donated $1 million to Immaculate Heart College's new campus fund drive in Claremont, California., officials of the Catholic institution announced yesterday. The gift, college officials explained, is the largest ever received by Immaculate Heart College, and makes possible a contract that will incorporate IHC's science facilities in the Harvey Mudd College science complex to be constructed this summer. The special contract will mark the first time in this country that a Catholic College has affiliated with a non sectarian institution. Immaculate Heart will open its new campus in Claremont in September of 1971. Kathy Crosby, wife of the famed entertainer, will officially present the $1 million gift to Immaculate Heart College officials tomorrow in Claremont, a suburb of Los Angeles.

.....The busy are never too busy. Bing Crosby has just accepted the chairmanship for the Sight Saving Month Campaign of the National Society for the Prevention of Blindness

Both of the above cuttings came from a Californian contact of Johnny Jones

DAILY MIRROR - ENGLAND - 27-5-69
Bing Crosby joins the bizarre elite of Ella Fitzgerald and Wilson Pickett who have found the Beatles HEY JUDE an irresistable song. Bing makes 'Jude' the lead track on his latest album, HEY BING. He also includes plenty of current hit songs to make this Crosby LP a definate winner - Cutting via John Maughan.

SUNDERLAND ECHO - ENGLAND - June 69
In November 1968 a man stood before one of the toughest audiences a singer can have - an orchestra of studio musicians. The singer, who made his first record in 1926, recorded ten numbers from the 1960's songbook. At the end the "audience" stood and applauded. They showed wise appreciation, for the singer was Bing Crosby and he had just completed tracks for a new album HEY BING-HEY JUDE, and the album showed that the "Old Groaner" has lost none of his old magic

SUNDAY SUN - ENGLAND - 14-6-69
Liberace, Mary Hopkins and Richard Watis, all in the same programme helped to restore sanity to the mad mad world of entertainment. True artistry wil always outshine and outlive the brief reign of the Kings and queens of the "pop" world who pass across the scene like flaming meteors and fizzle out like damp squibs. These untalented morons are exalted and remembered only as long as the young and indiscriminating people who put them there remain in the cuckooland of adolescence. To take three extreme examples. Who among the "pop" idols and composers of the day and their works will live as long in the memory as Caruso, Bing Crosby and Handel?. Roy Dickinson, Carlisle. Cutting via Jack Shaw.

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our thanks also to Peter Wilson of Middlesborough for some excellent press-cuttings from RADIO TIMES etc

OOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOO

The new WORLD WIDE RECORD COLLECTORS DIRECTORY will go to press soon and we are sure that you won't want to be left out of this authentic collectors register. WORLD WIDE RECORD COLLECTORS DIRECTORY will list the names, addresses, phone numbers, and collector interests of the most active collectors throughout the world - in short, it will be the best possible way to improve your record collection, and profit from it.

write for your questionaire to.:
WILL ROY HEARNE, 1047 WEST 97th STR, LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA 90044, USA
please mention "BING" magazine ...

NEW MUSICAL EXPRESS - June 7th, 69
I believe Bing Crosby has sold more records than any other star on earth, and does'nt look like stopping now. MORE AND MORE is going to please all the fans who love that relaxed voice. It's on London HLU I0276. The backing is LIVING AND LOVING

NEWCASTLE EVENING CHRONICLE - Friday July IIth, 69

KENT GIRL IS BING'S COOK

Eighteen-year-old student Sheila French of Sittingbourne, Kent, flies to California next week to become Bing Crosby's new cook. Sheila, who has studied at Thenet Technical College for the last two years, was chosen mainly because she's good at making creamy rice puddings.

BBC RADIO 4 Friday July II, 69 - carried the same report on TODAY at 8.38am and closed with Bing's recording of HOME COOKING

NEW MUSICAL EXPRESS - Saturday July I2th, 69
Jimmy Bowen recording another Christmas Bing Crosby LP.

MAGAZINES WE RECOMMEND

JAZZ FORUM
THE CROSBY COLLECTOR
THE GOLDEN YEARS
SQUARE ONE

JAZZ FORUM - The magazine of the European Jazz Federation, now in it's 3rd year of publication. The current issue - I969 No. I(4) gives a useful reference to many international magazines including our own. Well produced and if your a jazz addict well worth subscribing too - further details from Robert Pernet, Brussels 3, 23, Maurice Maeterlinck Avenue, Belgium.

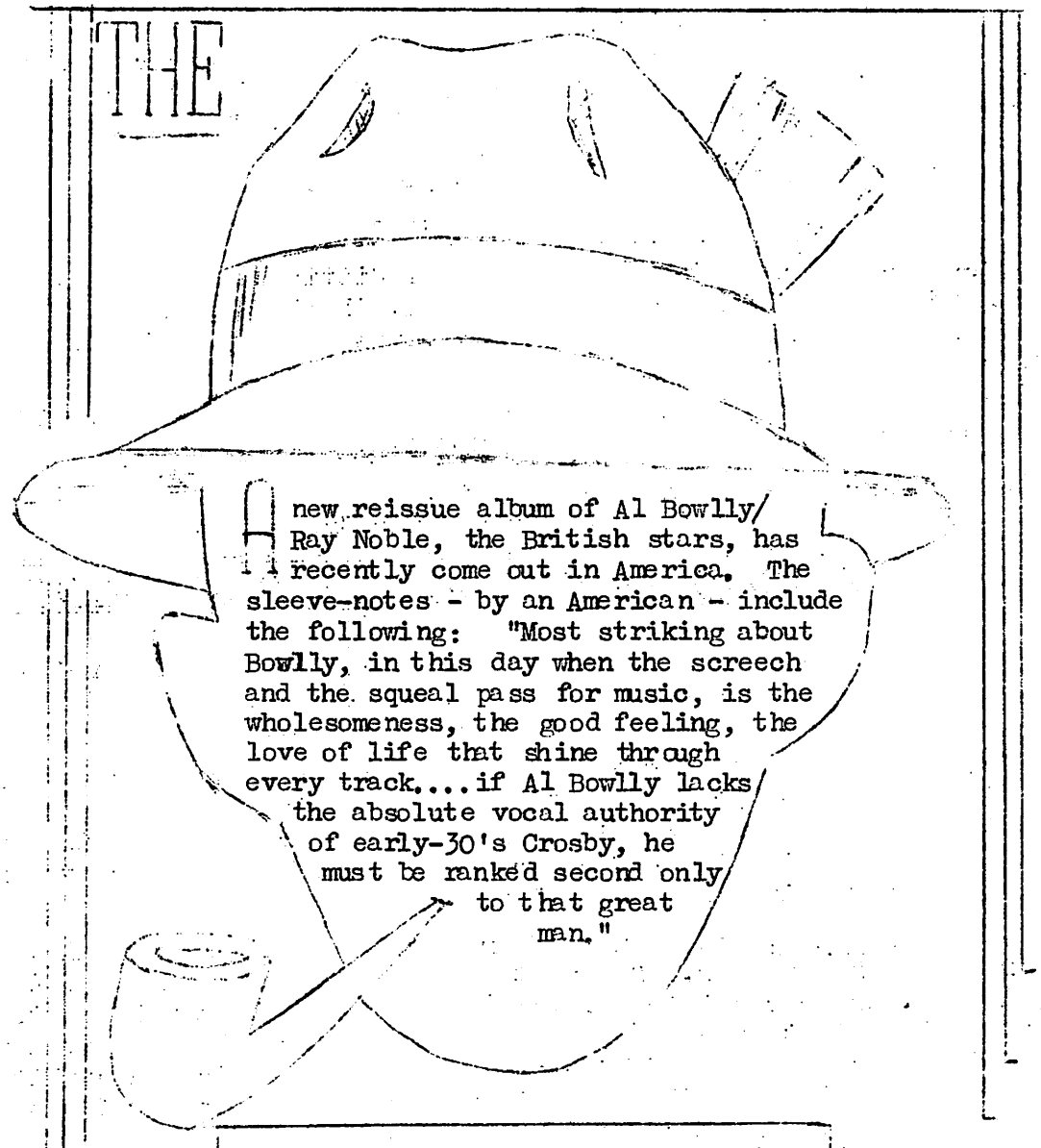
THE CROSBY COLLECTOR, now in it's fourth year, published monthly. 4/- per single copy or I8/- for 5 issues. USA and Canada send $3 for 6 issues. Australia send $3 for 7 issues. The current issue, Vol 4 No 6, July 69 is well up to standard and one of the highlights for me was a most amusing article dedicated to that legend of the silver screen W C FIELDS - such articles are rich in quality and though one might augue that they don't belong in a Crosby magazine - I for one feel they lend atmosphere to a Crosby stronghold - besides. the Editor covers himself with a most apt heading for the article/s - THEY WORKED WITH BING, for they have too. Readers of this particular issue will also find a useful listing of top quality tapes which are availaike via leading U.K. collector Bob Roberts, who is also one of the ICC's Publicity Officers. It's a pleasure to plug The CROSBY COLLECTOR, it's editor, Ralph Harding works very hard to beat a monthly schedule and does it too - write to Ralph at 6, Castledine Road, Anerley, London S. E. 20.

SQUARE ONE - is the novel title of a brand new magazine which is due out in August. under the joint leadership of Fred Tetlow and John Bassett, two leading and well known enthusiasts - SQUARE ONE is to take the place of Fred's long running magazine TETLOW'S VINTAGE RECORD GUIDE, and the new magazine will consist mainly of articles and sales of good quality 78's from the 20's, 30's and 40's - John Bassett is to be assistant editor and he will be pleased to hear from you at 3 Old Hall Court, Great Wakering, Essex, England.

THE GOLDEN YEARS is published quarterly for our sister group THE I930's RECORD SOCIETY and it's membership continues to grow rapidly - to give you an example, the print order on the April 69 issue has been increased by 60 copies for the July 69 issue to cope with the flood of enquiry's and new members - the current 60 plus page edition boasts a magnifient cover photo of RUSS COLUMBO from our New York rep Fred Romary, and under the expert editorship of Reg Bristo, The Golden Years is looking forward to a tremendous influx of new members from all parts of the world - Send Frank Murphy 4/6 (50cents) for a review copy of the Golden Years and free 8 page brochure telling you how you can become a member of The I930's Record Society.

RETROSPECTIVE

THE COLUMNS



A new reissue album of Al Bowlly/ Ray Noble, the British stars, has recently come out in America. The sleeve-notes - by an American - include the following: "Most striking about Bowlly, in this day when the screech and the squeal pass for music, is the wholesomeness, the good feeling, the love of life that shine through every track....if Al Bowlly lacks the absolute vocal authority of early-30's Crosby, he must be ranked second only to that great man."

+ Records are presented in queer fashion today. I saw perhaps half-a-dozen newspaper "reviews" or references to the new Bing single extracted from the "HeyJude" album and all of them gave just one title: "More & More". I assumed that the reverse side would be "Jude" - seemed a natural choice. But of course it wasn't - it turned out to be "Livin' on Lovin'". Nevertheless an excellent choice. Yet "More & More" wasn't. I like the number in the context of the entire album, but a much happier combination of titles could have been achieved I think to give the single a happier chance. "Just for Tonight", or "Green Apples", for instance. Yet "More" has been the most played track by D.J.'s.

+ I was astonished to find that I agreed with the young lady of the Daily Express - first time ever, I believe - who said, apropos the single: "Daddyo Bing Crosby is still an engaging crooner (!)and the current record-buying mood could open the yuung market again to this type of voice.....(cont over

But of all the songs on his L.P. "HEY JUDE/ HEY BING", why did his company choose to release this inferior number as a single? It would have failed to make the grade as a public house chorus even at the height of Bing's popularity. And the joke is that three composers are credited with the authorship."

+ I don't entirely agree with the lady's assessment of the song - but there is a lot in what she wrote - for a change.

\+ + +

REGULAR SUNDAY AFTERNOON VISITOR.

+ Well, we've been warned that the B.B.C. rights to screen Paramount's older films will soon revert to the parent company. Meanwhile Bing seems to have become a regular Sunday afternoon visitor - not to mention Wednesday nights on B.B.C.2. A very happy state of affairs. Halcyon days indeed with "Blue Skies", "Tops is the Limit", "Emperor Waltz", "Road to Zanzibar", "Rhythm on the River" all following one another within the space of a few weeks. And for a small bonus, Bing was seen in a composite programme of award-winning film songs singing - with Jane Wyman - "In The Cool, Cool, Cool of the Evening" on TT.V.

+ "Tops is the Limit" is the film that started off as "Anything Goes", adapted from Cole Porter's stage success of 1934-5 of the same name. The film was subsequently described as "less successful" than its stage predecessor. I'm not the film-fan I should be, perhaps, to make positive assertions but I do feel that, apart from the excerpts of some of the Mack Sennett shorts shewn in the film-story of Bing's career a couple of years ago on T.V. the Bing in "Tops" was the youngest Mr. Crosby we have so far seen on the T.V.

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+ The story was, of course, ludicrous as far as plot went but was, of course, satire. Particularly with Charlie Ruggle's pride in maintaining his place as Public Enemy No. 13 - indeed, indignant that he hadn't been pushed up a few places. But what the heck did the plot matter, now or then in 1935 with Bing singing "Sailor Beware", "Moonburn" and "My Heart & I"? Surely three of the best songs in one film that Bing ever did? It was interesting to note, also, Ida Lupino of the famous British theatrical family making what must have been one of her earliest appearances in a Hollywood film. And, according to the T.V. credits, Ida is still busy as a producer out there. Apart from Bing and Ida and Charles Riggles (always one of my favourite character actors) the film introduced the indomitable Ethel Merman - before she had reached full fortissimo! Even so, this latest showing allowed us again to see and hear Bing and Ethel singing the original [illegible] song, "You're The Top" - and to wonder again why Cole Porter went out of his way to criticise Bing's singing of his song.

\+ + +

+ "Road to Zanzibar" presented me with a minor problem - and I know I shall be tersely informed that I should know the answer! But during this film, Bing briefly sang a song with the same title as the name of the film - but so far as I can see never recorded this song commercially. I'm sure there's a story behind this - and I'm equally sure I ought to know it! But I don't. Alan Lurie or Les Phythian will soon enlighten me.

\+ + +

+ How noticeable that in the reasonable quiet of the home viewing these films you invariably find new delights in the script that you either missed originally - or have forgotten. For instance, when Bing as the "barker" oepned the film with a song he said, at the end: "That's for nothing folks - probably what its worth! " Then when Arthur Treacher remarked to Ethel Merman: "We all have our bohour, don't we?" - and Ethel's pained rejoinder: "Must you ask embarrassing questions?". Or Bob, as the Great Profile - "Don't look bad from the side, either!"

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+ I remain convinced that that wrestling sequence Bob had with the gorilla in "Zanzibar" is one of the funniest screen episodes ever filmed. The way Bob "got stuck" in as if he

(cont. over..

really thought "this is it - I gotta finish this guy," fractures me. Its all the funnier, I thought, when you think that nearly 30 years after that hilarious scene was filmed, I.T.V. put on similar "exhibitions" for all the world as if it was the "in" - serious - sport! Kent Walton's urgent, whispered, technical slants are nearly as funny as Bob was in "Zanzibar" - but not quite. And in any case, Bob meant to be funny.

\+ + +

"PENSIONER BING". It was inevitable that on the milestone of his 65th birthday, Mr. Crosby would be referred to thus. Several papers mentioned the event - the Daily Express as follows:

"PENSIONER BING GOES FISHING.

HOLLYWOOD, Friday.

Bing Crosby disappeared on his 65th birthday today for some quiet fishing with his eleven-year-old son, Harry.

Before he took off for a Mexican hideaway he scoffed at the idea of retiring now he has officially reached retirement age, saying: 'I guess I'll go on singing as long as I can!".

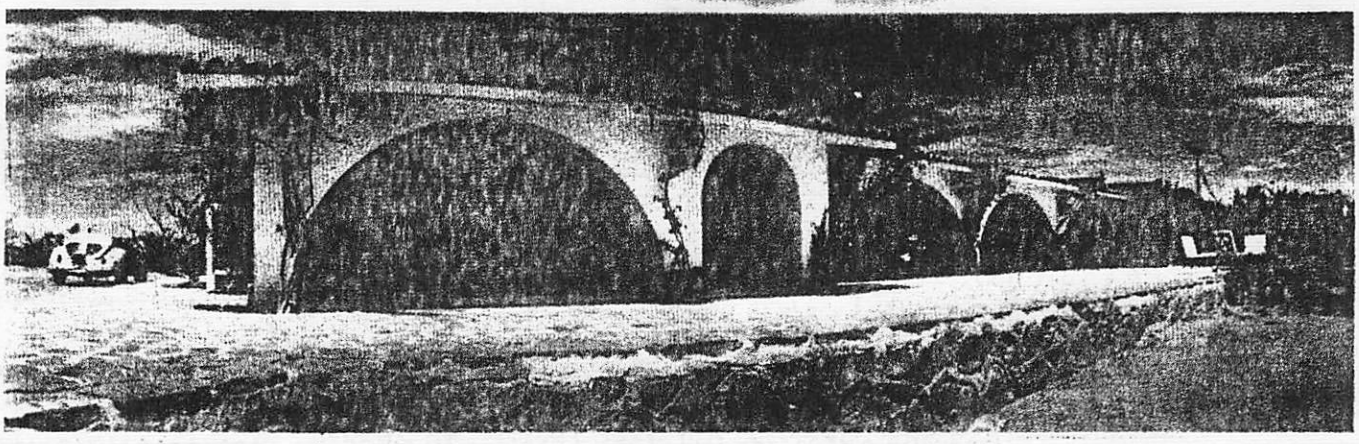
Which is good news for all of us - though some pessimistic characters with the crab-apple visages may utter a disapproving grant!

\+ I expect I'll read elsewhere in this issue of the radio tributes on the august (sorry, May 2nd) occasion. The only one I caught was on B.B.C. Radio 2 "Roundabout Programme". I found this quite satisfying, considering the way the B.B.C. and their "whizz-kids" (despite their age) go about these things. The script was by Frank Salter and delivered by Brian Matthew, whom you will recall just a short while ago interviewing with suitable awe the likes of Mick Jagger and Co. Still, perhaps he's a "professional" and puts over what he's told. But I'm sure he did it with awe - the Jagger part, I mean. However, let's not be churlish. The birthday tribute to Bing came over very well indeed. In case you didn't hear here is a brief resume.

\+ Brian Matthew said this was a very special occasion - the 65th birthday of one Harry Lillis Crosby and the 1945 version of "Where The Blue of the Night" with the Paradise Island Trio was played. This was an excellent start for it's my favourite version! After remarking that it is doubtful if Bing ever needed a signature tune to identify his renowned voice, he went on to say the famous voice was as much in evidence as ever after 40 years' of recording, including 22 gold discs, they went into "Those Were The Days" from "Hey Jude/Hey Bing" and used this as an introduction to the famous recording of the Rhythm Boys Reunion with Paul Whiteman - complete with American voice introduction. Next was heard Bing himself in that remembered broadcast when he assessed his singing ability as pretty low - except for one record! This was where Bing reckoned on one record - "Isle of Golden Dreams" - he sang well. "If I could sing like that every day I'd be a lot happier." They then played the record. In parenthesis, I might add that Bing really should listen to his own records more!

\+ Brian Matthew next said that this record was very much of its time - as this one is, and played "Hey Jude". As this drew to its "with it" conclusion, he said "My, there's a mind-blown disc for you. "It really is incredible from this great gentleman, Bing Crosby. Although he won't hear us, we're sure - Frank Salter who compiled this little feature - and I that many of you will want to [illegible] in wishing 'many happy returns' to the Old Groaner'."

\+ The feature last around 18-20 minutes and to my ears was a fairly worthy effort. As I say, I didn't catch any others and anticipate reading about them elsewhere in this issue.



CASA CROSBY *is a rambling twelve-room adobe mansion with a red-tiled roof, furnished in Spanish Colonial style. Built under Bing's supervision in 1960, it overlooks "Sea of Cortez" and spectacular surrounding countryside.*

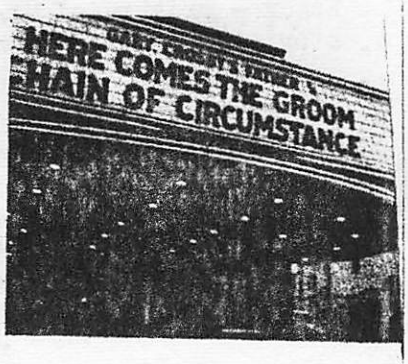
BAJA SUR: *The Old Groaner's Hideaway*

Out of this world in Baja Sur, Mexico, Bing Crosby has found the fountain of youth—and a perfect place to nourish and help cultivate his second family tree.

I SAW IT HAPPEN

While sitting in a Boston restaurant, I looked up and saw several men approaching a nearby table. One of them was easily recognizable as Bing Crosby. A little, white-haired old lady, seated opposite me, looked up and gasped, "Why, it's Father O'Malley!" Bing turned, his blue eyes twinkling, doffed his hat, and winked wickedly at the delighted little lady.

Ann Waldron
Taunton, Massachusetts



The Rhythm Boys get together again with Paul Whiteman. Paul gave me my first break

"WHAT DOES BING MEAN TO YOU?"

---------- WAS THE QUESTION YOU WERE INVITED TO ANSWER

+ In the April issue of BING we reported verbatim the unrehearsed and unscripted radio Leeds interview in which a rather young interviewer posed questions to an equally young Crosby admirer, Michael Crampton of that City. In the belief that young Mike acquitted himself handsomely we invited readers to say how they would have answered the questions. True, few found it possible to limit themselves - I'm delighted to say! - to the questions asked, BUT the exercise produced some fine efforts. Many, modestly, said they doubted if they could have answered on the radio at all (!) but all agreed our Michael had done well. As indeed, he did.

+ I was highly hopeful that the invitation would produce something interesting. My hopes were well founded for it produced two remarkable efforts, as I'm sure you will agree when you have read them. The particular aspect to note here is that neither of the authors of these remarkable tributes to Mr. Crosby is an - shall we say - old collector, not a veteran at any rate. I think we have the A, B, and C. of things, for the tributes came from Frank Ashurst, of Wigan, and John Bassett, of Great Wakering, Essex - writing of Mr. C. Strictly alphabetical and implying no preference the stories were as follows:

By Frank Ashurst:

What do I admire about Bing Crosby? Well, his singing of course. And this I admire tremendously - I try to hear him every day if at all possible - to the extent that my boys will say "Oh! Not again, Dad ?" However, I note they're always there when a Bing film is shewn on the T.V.! But having said I admire his singing, there is much more. The sort of person he is, for instance. I get the impression - and who can doubt it is the right one - that truly if he can help somebody he most certainly will. A typical instance, I read in a Crosby magazine recently about him sponsoring six youngsters through college - two Catholics, two Protestants, and two Jews, shewing a fine disregard for religious denomination despite his own pronounced one. There is the Crosby Library, the royalties from some of his finest records going to charity.

Oh yes, Bing Crosby is a wealthy man. I know he has the money to do these things, but everybody that has money doesn't like to give it away. It doesn't follow that every wealthy man gives a lot of it away.

Another aspect of Mr. Crosby: one has never heard, nor is likely to hear, any scandal about Bing. Its not very difficult, I imagine to get involved in scandal when you are in show business and a citizen of that tinsel city, Hollywood. But Bing has always kept free from this type of publicity.

In a scrap-book about Bing I keep there is an article by Bob

(Cont. over....

"WHAT DOES BING MEAN TO YOU?": Frank Ashurst (Cont)

Hope writing about Bing. This is what he said: "If I am to write anything about Bing at all, I can only write about the Crosby everybody knows, because he is the only person in the public eye who hasn't got two sides." I consider this a big compliment to pay anyone. I liked, too, one of the many stories he tells about Bing. Bob said "One of the biggest tonics in being friends with Bing is his effortless way of getting things done. A case in point was when we were making "The Road to Rio". We had bought some shares in a lime-flavoured soft-drink firm and we thought it might be a good idea to put up a big sign in one of the scenes advertising this connection. But Paramount didn't see it that way. 'You can't plug a real commercial product in a movie', they said. I shall never forget Bing's cold hard look. "I own a third of the picture, Bob owns a third of the picture, and Paramount own a third. We'll vote."

Truly, as Mihcael said, there's no one to equal Bing Crosby.

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+ I think Frank covered a remarkable amount of ground in comparatively few words. One just couldn't catalogue the many charitable acts Mr. C. has carried out - and he, for certain, would be the last to try. Apart from the things Frank mentioned, there are the stories of his helping hand to old-time friends, musicians, down on their luck, parts in pictures for some of them - and on a more general scale his bond-raising activities in the second World War.

+ Though no one would doubt that Bing, being what he is - and he repeatedly says he doesn't act in films, he plays himself! - had a mighty fine time "singing and playing around" certainly in the old days, it is a remarkable truth that not once in his long career, and despite the efforts of one or two of Hollywood's infamous gossip-writers, never a breath of Scandal or questionable behaviour, temperament, call it what you will, has indeed touched Bing. I suppose if a man has a remarkable voice, a unique voice, that gives you a lot of pleasure, that voice would still continue to give that pleasure if he were the biggest bounder going - but how appropriate it is, how comforting even, to know that Bing Crosby is a fine gentleman in every sense of the word.

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And now, on to John Bassett's remarkable effort: and mark well the opening sentence!

"I 'discovered' Bing Crosby on Christmas Eve, 1965. Since then, with the help of films, books, and records, I have 'lived' through the greater part of his career from 1904 to 1969, gleaning as much information as possible about his life prior to his recording debut.

But before I continue with the main theme of this article, let me return to my opening sentence and fill in a few details. At approximately four minutes to midnight on December 24th, 1965, I 'met' this great man in the comfort of my home. Through the miracle of radio, his voice was brought into the room where I was sitting, with just the cosy glow of the fire for company. As you might well guess, the record I heard played was of a festive nature, namely the "two-in-one" track "Hark The Herald Angels Sing/It Came Upon the Midnight Clear". Here were two of the most beautiful carols ever written sung in such a unique way that the meaning in the words went straight to my heart. My friends, although I had considered myself a music lover before that, until that moment I believe I couldn't possibly have known what good, sympathetic, singing really was. There and then I became determined to attempt to hear everything Bing had ever sung. Here, I considered, was a man who could really emphasise the true meaning of a song with seemingly little effort on his part. I craved to hear more.

(Cont. over....

And I have! Since that Christmas Eve I have built up a person record collection of just on a thousand different titles by Bing Crosby. And every single ld has been well spent in the process. Without fear of contradiction, I can safely say that from what I've heard so far, certain songs are better than others, but Bing's rendering of all of them is of the same exceptional, unequalled, high standard. Being human, and therefore born with likes and dislikes, it is excusable that I should make a vain attempt to segregate a certain variety of Bing's records and place them on a higher pedestal. This I have done with his versions of hymns and Christmas carols.

"So far, I have been explaining what I like about Bing as regards his singing of certain records, but from this point I willl try and adhere more closely to what Bing means to me, which after all is what this article was supposed to answer.

Referring to hymns and carols again, let me point out that I am far from being what might be called 100 per cent religious. May be some are, but not me, if I'm to be honest. But believe me, when I listen to Bing's 'O God, Our Help In Ages Past', or 'Silent Night' - it makes me want to walk straight into a church and pray! I can only explain this by saying there is no doubt in my mind that Bing can inject faith because he himself has faith. It's very apparent in 'Rock of Ages'. As sure as I was born, the tone of his voice, the outstanding sincerity, brings tears to my eyes and a lump to my throat. And I'm not ashamed to admit it.

Now, I'm not trying to claim that other artistes are unable to make a decent rendering of 'Rock of Ages', for they can and have. But Bing Crosby, and only Bing, can interpret it so truly movingly. HE MEANS WHAT HE SINGS. To me, his voice is the symbol of all that is good and pure in the world - the spirit of goodwill burning brightly in the home of a poor family blessed by the Lord. Call me a sentimentalist if you so desire, but for my money there is no other living person on this earth who can have such a profound effect on me by simply talking or singing.

Bing is so much like a close friend that I get a tremendous kick out of seeing him on television, even if he just walks across the screen without saying a word. I feel as if I know him personally. Every evening I listen to his records, and the playing of about three LP's all in one evening is not an unusual occurrence. Quite often, I listen very intently to his voice, and I think to myself that he is really just an ordinary modesty guy with a good voice who has been admired and acclaimed by the whole word - really through no fault of his own! To me, again, he must certainly be a 'great guy' to have such an astonishing effect on everybody. I often think how intriguing it would be if it were possible to turn the clock back 40 years - think of it, 40 years! - and tell the young Mr. Crosby just what his destiny was. I wonder what his reaction would be? Fairly safe to say in his incredible modesty he would quizzically say: "Who - me?" Imagine playing him some tracks from his current album "Hey Jude - Hey Bing" and saying "This is you in 40 years' time."

+ If my dream of one day meeting Bing does come true, it will be like shaking hands with a dearly loved friend I've known for a lifetime. And, to be mundane, I'd willingly sacrifice a year's salary for one minute in his presence - it would mean the world to me to hear him say - to me - "Hello" as only he can.

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"WHAT DOES BING MEAN TO YOU?": John Bassett (Cont)

Now that I come to look back at what I've written, it becomes clear to me that words alone are totally inadequate for something of this nature. I did strive to capture some of the feeling I have towards Bing; but I fear that my efforts have been less than successful. It is impossible to re-create sincere admiration on paper, and any attempt to do so appears comparatively meagre by comparison with my true feelings."

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+ John Basset is 21 years of age. There will be those, perhaps, who turn aside from such unabashed, may be youthful, sincerity. But for me, John's strivings were far from inadequate. This is as remarkable a testimony to the Crosby voice - and the Crosby aura - as one could wish to read anywhere. Ponder on the fact that John did not exist even through those incredible Thirties when the Crosby voice was truly rolling round the world. He didn't know the thrill of seeing - and hearing - Bing go from strength to strength. He knew "Please," "Here Lies Love", "Shine", and all that wonderful catalogue, only close on 40 years afterwards.

+ He has had to re-create for himself the Whiteman days, the Arnheim days at the Cocoanut Grove, the "Big Broadcast of 1932" and the long string of films that followed - and he's done in in little more than three years. Truly enough to make the minds of the veterans boggle. Like Michael Crampton and Michael Soper, down here in Cardiff, John Bassett will ensure that the Crosby legend is perpetuated. As a matter of fact, by pure coincidence, sorting out old mail for possible destruction, I came upon the following extract from a letter I received from a youthful Crosbyite, IN 1966. It said:

"Until just recently, things have been very difficult at home and life has been very difficult. Throughout these trying times, Bing has always been my companion, and whenver I have felt depressed, I have had recourse to my precious Crosby records - and Bing could, and can, always restore my cheery spirits."

+ Now, since Editor Frank inflicted my outpourings on you some three years ago, I have often, consciously and sometimes unconsciously, started talking-points. Sometimes I have blushed slightly when I myself have read what I've written. Especially when I consider there is a chance that Bing himself may read it. But on this occasion, I sincerely hope that the Maestro will read these astonishing testaments from Frank Ashurst and John Bassett - and I feel very happy that I was the means of bringing these thoughts into print. My real thanks to both of them - and indeed, to those who agreed but couldn't bring themselves to be so eloquent. The exercise, prompted by Mike Crampton's radio interview, was well worth while, I think.

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BING CROSBY NO 4.

ACCOMPANIED BY

BUDDY COLE

The legend on Bing's record labels. Previously in this series:
1. John Scott Trotter.
2. Victor Young.
3. Paul Whiteman.

Sadly, the late Buddy Cole, for he died after a heart-attack on 5th November, 1964 at the lamentably early age of 47. Though to many people Buddy's accompaniments to Bing are something of an enigma, there is no doubting his musical ability. He was a man of many parts - his playing ability spread over piano, celeste - and his first and major interest - after Bing Crosby - pipe organs, though he recorded on Hammond electronic instruments. In addition, he was a musician who was a "sound" fanatic and was a true expert at getting his sounds on tape or disc. He knew the engineering side, in other words. Buddy was ill-fated, for he had a very severe heart attack which nearly killed him five years before the fatal one.

+ Just how ill-fated he was can best be learned from a remarkable taped message that Buddy Cole sent to Stan White, our Kettering organ and Bing enthusiast, in 1962. This tape, which I must imagine, had full publicity in Crosby publications when Stan received it and is, therefore, well known to older members, has for me a rather shocking undertone of sadness, sombreness if you like. That I heard it first after Buddy had died no doubt accounts for some of that feeling. Even so, it is rather painful to listen to - and would be only slight less so if Buddy was still alive.

+ Many times he spoke of "God Willing" - and if the Lord spares me - Life has been good to me - I have nothing to grumble about. Two years later he was dead. He speaks of his divorce and the sequel that his daughters lived with their mother. That he kept in touch with them - by tape, what else? He lost his best friend over a squabble concerning the acquisition of a theatre organ. His tremendous enthusiasm for the future that was denied him is apparent when he talks of his plans for the pipe organ he had installed in an annexe to his home. He spoke of Bing - or, more often, "Mr. Crosby" and of his gratitude for the tremendous break it was for him when Bing called on him to accompany him "...just you and a rhythm section.." in radio shows in the early 50's.

+ He spoke, proudly, of his visit to Britain in 1955 - with Rosemary Clooney. But he had so much on his mind - pending divorce - that he just could not get into the things he wanted to do. But even regarding this, the sadness crept in: "At least I was THERE," said Buddy. "I don't know when I shall get there again - if ever." He never did, of course.

+ Buddy spoke of his bitterness at the "stinking" business - the musical business - of New York. Of how soon years and years of hard grind and experience can be forgotten by producers when a new pianist with a "faster right hand" pops up. He was grateful and humble for the talent that had been "given" to him

+ There was no doubting Buddy's utter sincerity when referring to Bing: "God knows, I am so thankful to Mr. Crosby. This ...(his radio contract) has been a life-saver for me." God Willing, he added, it will go on for at least another year.....

+ He was born in 1917 - a good year for Crosby fans! - and was playing organ in a theatre when he was 15! But he had started on piano for silent films even ea lier when three sisters who had done just that got married. "What about the kid?" said the manager - so Buddy kicked off very early indeed on a professional career in music. (Cont. over

BING: ACCOMPANIED BY BUDDY COLE (Cont.)

+ Clearly, Buddy was "hooked" on organs - and described his meeting with the great Jesse Crawford. He subsequently went through all the branches open to a musician. Jobs with bands "on the road" - not much money, sleep, or to eat! He played with Frankie Trumbauer's orchestra and Buddy had a warm regard for a Gil Evans' band he played with earlier on. Society orchestras. After the war he went to Hollywood and was busy on the film-music scene. It was in 1947 that he first met Bing when he became the pianist in the John Scott Trotter orchestra, which he seems to have enjoyed. Incidentally, Buddy once used the name Eddy LeMar - so if you come across any old records with that name on them - you know it was, in fact, Buddy Cole.

+ When Bing approached Buddy concerning providing accompaniments for the C.B.S. radio programmes, Buddy related that he "was thrilled out of my skull." He was also working at the same time for Rosemary Clooney on N.B.C. but subsequently Rosie came over to C.B.S. - and to Bing and Buddy. He was allowed an astonishingly free hand by Bing, for he says they would go to the studio and Bing would do the song with the minimum of rhythm accompaniment - sometimes 22 in a day! Buddy would subsequently add all sorts of trimmings, so it is easy to imagine that the finished product when eventually broadcast, usually came as a surprise to Bing. Buddy estimated that he had done between 200-300 songs with Bing, 270 with Rosie, and about 40 duets -- so there are some of the items we know are reposing in C.B.S. archives.

+ Many of these radio songs were subsequently issued on record, as we all know. It has been said that while these made satisfactory radio "spots" they perhaps needed more embellishment for commercial record issue. Attempts have been made to pin down Buddy's style. I, for instance, once suggested he was a sort of Carroll Gibbons. This was, to an extent, ridiculed. The ridiculer advanced the belief that Buddy was on the lines of the late "Fats" Waller. For my money, despite his undoubted pyrotechnics, Buddy never played with the nonchalant exuberance of the Black Gargoyle of Rhythm - as Fats liked to be called. He wasn't modern, he wasn't Dixie-land - so how did one categorise Buddy Cole? The best suggestion, undoubtedly, is that he played "Cocktail" music. That is, the sort of easy on the ear music that you hear playing in the background at a ritzy bar, or lounge, in a ritzy hotel. Yet that goes for the proverbial Burton when you listen to, say, "Chicago" - certainly one of my favourite Crosby records with Buddy presiding. Another is "The Next Time It Happens" with full orchestra and the Conlon Rhythmaires. A lovely record by any standard, vocally and as regards accompaniment. The up-tempo version in Bing's long affair with "Ol' Man River" is another fine example. On the slightly debit side, I cannot say I particularly cared for the "[illegible]" numbers consisting of a slow-tempo chorus, followed in most cases, by a speeded-up second, as performed on the album "Songs Everybody Knows".

+ Buddy came on the scene, as musical director for Bing, when the Scott Trotter saga was coming to an end, and indeed, Bing was recording with a variety of accompanists such as Perry Botkin, Matty Matlock, Alfred Newman, Les Brown and others. And when Bing's Decca contract was ending and Bing seemed set for his current free-lancing.

+ It remains to be said that whatever else Buddy Cole did or did not do, he has achieved a permanent niche in our hearts for the pushing of Bing through that tremendous five-album set of Autobiography, carried out over a period in 1954. This was an entirely unique endeavour for which Buddy receives the highest credit. His dear wish to get Bing to record an album of songs with Buddy on the organ never came to fruition, although there are a few records where the organ is heard - such as Alamo, and that beautifully controlled solo in "More Than You Know". But this was the electronic organ - not the pipe instrument Buddy wanted to use "When I can get Bing out to my place." Stan White had, apparently, included on the tape he sent to Buddy records of Bing singing with Helen Crawford and Eddie Dunstedter. Buddy hadn't heard these before - and they clearly got him to thinking "the possibility's there".

+ But it wasn't to be. With so much done and, he felt, so much more to be done, Buddy came to the end of the road.

+ In the following list you will see that his accompaniments varied from his own solo piano to a full orchestra. He made close on 50 records with Bing - hardly scratching the surface of the vast store that C.B.S. holds. He was a fine man, and a great musician.

BING CROSBY'S RECORDS WITH BUDDY COLE

+ This listing, like all others in the series, is culled from THE ROAD TO BING CROSBY DISCOGRAPHY, and I'm grateful to the eminent compilers for their permission to use it so.

No.	Title.	Date	Remarks.
1.	Do You Ever Think of Me?	26.6.53.	Trio
2.	I Never Knew.	"	"
3.	Somebody Loves Me.	"	"
4.	After You're Gone.	"	"
5.	Sleepy Time Gal.	"	"
6.	Dinah.	"	"
7.	I Never Knew.	"	"
8.	I Can't Give You Anything But Love.	"	"
9.	Bing: A Musical Autobiography.	21.4.54.	"
		3.5.54.	"
		16.6.54.	"
10.	Christmas is A'Coming.	22.11.55	Orchestra - With Jud Conlon's Rhythmaires.
11.	The First Snowfall.	"	" " "
12.	The Possibility's There.	"	" - with Peggy Lee.
13.	The Next Time It Happens.	"	" - with Jud Conlon's Rhythmaires.
14.	Something in Common.	23.11.55	"
15.	Look To Your Heart.	"	"
16.	Suddenly There's A Valley.	"	"
17.	Moments To Remember.	"	" From a radio show.
18.	Is Christmas Only a Tree?	"	"
19.	The Longest Walk.	"	" From a radio show.
20.	Ol' Man River.	13.12.55	Trio.
21.	In A Little Spanish Town.	"	"
22.	Honeysuckle Rose.	22.5.56	" - From a radio show.
23.	Swanee.	"	" - " " " "
24.	Around The World.	3.10.56	Orchestra.
25.	I Heard The Bells on Christmas Day.	"	" - With The Ken Darby Sgrs.
26.	Love In A Home.	"	"
27.	When I Take My Sugar To Tea.	14.3.57.	Trio.) From 27-38 incl.
28.	Between The Devil & The Deep Blue Sea.	"	") comprising the album
29.	Alabamy Bound.	"	") "New Tricks" - tho'
30.	Georgia On My Mind.	"	") some titles were iss-
31.	I'm Confessin'	"	") ued as singles - and
32.	If I Could Be With You.	"	") on E.P.'s.
33.	Avalon.	"	")

(Cont. over.....

BING CROSBY'S RECORDS WITH BUDDY COLE (Cont.)

No.	Title.	Date.	Remarks.
34.	Chinatown, My Chinatown.	14.3.57	Trio.) - see previous note over-
35.	You're Driving Me Crazy.	"	" page.
36.	On The Alamo.	"	")
37.	Chicago.	"	")
38.	Softly, As In A Morning Sunrise.	"	")
39.	More Than You Know.	"	" - Unissued until "Rare Style" album in Nov. 1967
40.	Straight Down The Middle.	31.12.57	Orchestra.
41.	Tomorrow's My Lucky Day.	"	"
42.	Church Bells.	17.10.58	Trio.
43.	Rain.	"	"
44.	I Couldn't Care Less.	6.3.59.	Piano.
45-48	Brazil; How About You?; Love Won't Let You Get Away; On A Slow Boat to China.	28.7.58	) This was the first day's session on) the album "Fancy Meeting You Here") with Rosemary Clooney, and Buddy, without label credit, is reliably stated to have conducted this session. Two succeeding days' recordings were conducted by Billy May.

JUNK-SHOP JOUSTING

Truly, one can have some odd experiences in junk-shops - or secondhand shops if you prefer it, especially when the "proprietor" has acquired a little knowledge, or a little learning. This, as we all know, can be a dangerous thing. A friend of mine was telling me the other day he has long realised this. "Never, never, if asked, say what records you are looking for - if he has some the price immediately goes up 200 or 300 per cent," he said. "For instance, I go looking for Crosby too, and if left alone I go quietly through the stock. But if he asks what particular records I want I invariably say 'Viennese Waltzes by a German band' - or 'military marches by a string orchestra'. You don't see a lot of such records. And, if he has some Crosby discs, put them aside when he's not looking. Then when you say 'Hm, no luck' you make for the door, stop as if in two minds, and diffidently say "What do you want for these?" - meaning the Bing's, of course. Working on these lines you can often get them for 1/- or 1/6d when if you had 'declared your interest' they'd be 4 or 5 bob." Makes sense. Especially in view of an experience I had just the other day. I found such a shop with a lovely big heap of records - and a remarkably high Crosby content! Alas, they had been treated shamefully - dusty and bloomy, scratched, no covers - a dismal sight except for the magical name.

+ I put aside half-a-dozen, only one of which I hadn't got - the other five for a friend. This was more because (a) I can't resist buying such records and (b) it shows goodwill for future occasions if you buy a few rather than walk out empty-handed after going through hundreds of the bloke's records. Imagine my astonishment when the seedy proprietor, on being asked how much, peered at them "knowingly" - and said they were 7s.6d. each! When I suggested he was pulling one of my nether extremities to an inordinate length, he

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smiled smugly and knowingly. "Collectors items, these Crosby's. Everybody's looking for 'em," he said.

+ I stared at him incredulously. "Collectors' items - in THAT state? Dirty, dusty, scratched, no covers? If they were in good condition in clean covers they still wouldn't merit your description. They have been reissued time and time again on L.P.'s."

"Ah, but people want the labels," he said triumphantly. "Well, I don't," I said, "and I'll look in from time to time in case you DO get some collectors' items - and to see how many of these you sell at 7/6d each. Good-day!"

+ Now, he made have had a point about the labels. But it would have been more understandable if they had been Okeh, Victor, even early Columbia. But they weren't. They were late-40's, early 50's Brunswicks, freely available - well, comparatively freely available and as I told him, almost all currently available on microgroove. Clearly, somebody had either "conned" him into buying them himself as collectors' items, or he was completely out of touch. As I say, a little knowledge was a dangerous thing - if he wanted to get rid of those records. N.B. They're still there.....six weeks after!

+ The second incident was a little different. Motoring through a "new" town I spotted an Exchange & Mart - and as I always do in such circumstances, stopped and investigated. Sure enough there was a pile of 78's - dreadful things but fairly new and in good covers. Things like Jim Dale, Tommy Steele, The Blue Grass Boys, Skiffle-A-Go-Go - fairly recent rubbish. BUT, there was a Crosby Brunswick "What Can You Do With A General?". (I said they were 'new'). So, I picked this out, replaced the pile neatly and asked "How much?"

+ "Three pound the lot," was the answer. "I'm not selling them singly." Well, this was a new one.

+ "But, I can't use that rubbish," I answered. "Three pound the lot - 1/- a record," he replied adamantly.

"Well, I'll give you 2/6d for this one - you can sell 59 for 59/-, can't you?".

"No," he said, "all in one got - £3 for the sixty!" Principled, this chap, I thought. Let's see how far his principles go! "I'll give you 5/- for the record." Same answer. Same answer, too, to 7/6d. Talk about "What Can You Do With a General?" - what can you do with a principled junk-dealer?

+ I then made my supreme offer - 10/- for the record AND I would bring him a score of 78's the next week considerably more interesting than the 59 he was trying to sell. The answer? You're right: £3 the lot. Not selling individually!"

+ I bid him a puzzled "Good-day". What else could I do? I mean, £3 for a fairly recent 78 is a bit much, isn't it.

+ If ever you are passing through Tewkesbury, Glos. as you turn into the town from the A38 you'll see a little post office. Next door to it is Fred's Bargain Store. If you haven't got "What To Do with A General" - nip and try your luck!

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THE TRAGEDY OF JUDY GARLAND

+ Poor, dear, Judy Garland.....It may be that her passing is noteworthy in any pages. It is certainly so in these pages directed, in the main, to Bing Crosby, for Judy fleetingly appeared with Mr. Crosby on commercial record and in radio shows in common with a host of the world's great entertainers. And, make no mistake, Judy Garland was certainly numbered among that host.

+ To succeeding generations, certainly the present one, the spectacle of a neurotic, unstable, prematurely-ageing woman insisting on making "come-back" after "come-back" it is understandable they perhaps wonder at the emotion engendered by her decease in those old enough to remember other days. For there were other days....

+ Muchhas, and rightly so, been said about "The Wizard of Oz", but many will go back further to capture the magic of Judy Garland. To the days when her wide-eyed innocence in face of the brash Mickey Rooney, was quite, unbelievably, irresistible. And make the fashion of her passing so unutterably sad. For those who don't remember them, Judy and Mickey Rooney, together with a very distinguished actor, Lewis Stone, made a series of "Judge Hardy" films prior to the Second World War. Her incredible appeal persisted thro- many more films - notably with Fred Astaire in "For Me And My Girl" - before Judy wilted before the pressures beseetting her, whether by her own or somebody else's agency. Her beautiful voice became, largely, a caricature - and was painful to behold and to listen to. Yet, like Bing, Judy could inject a sympathy, a "feeling", into a song in a measure few have attained. If you have heard her singing, among so many great songs, "Dear Mr. Gable" you have heard a fine example. This song, of course, was "You Made Me Love You" - and concerned a young girl's worship of the late Clark Gable. A truly moving performance, not untouched with a certain tearful humour.

+ Weight troubles, studio troubles, marital troubles, - poor Judy finally came to experience the lot. It has been argued, no less by Judy herself, that her discovery was too soon. She had no normal childhood or indeed adoleseence. May be, may be not. Who can tell? The more mundane mortals among us who go out to work every day stand aghast and puzzled at the incredible difficulties these apparently happy and wealthy individuals get themselves into. With PAYE we cannot understand how so often we read of illustrious show business personalities being in debt to the State to the tune of thousands of dollars. But, we don't know the thunder of ecstatic applause, the delirium of world-wide acclaim. Neither do we know the loneliness when that applause and that acclaim falls silent. We just don't know. It follows we cannot judge, and can only mourn that a bright, happy, being, capable of passing of those feelings to millions of others, finally is found dead in a bathroom in unexplained circumstances - thousands of miles from her children and her true home. Poor Judy Garland.

+ Truly we cannot judge, but thoughts will intrude. The one I find most prominent is that to be the recipient of incredible talent WITHOUT an incredible temperament to match, is a deadly combination. The stories of those who did not have a temperament to match their ability are the saddest story of world-class show business. It is not incongruous at this time to think back to what Frank Ashurst and John Bassett have written in foregoing pages about Bing, and to consider what we all think about him. Let us, and Mr. Crosby too, be eternally thankful that among all his other great gifts, he has a temperament to match them. If ever I was a wide-eyed innocent that time has long gone and like so many in that category perhaps a certain reluctant cynicism pervades - but I confess to a feeling of unutterable sadness at the passing of Judy Garland....

+ Judy's commercial recordings with Bing were: -

You've Got Me Where You Want Me. and Mine - on 31st July, 1944.
Connecticut and Ya-Ta-Ta- Ya-Ta-Tah (Talk, Talk, Talk).- on 9th March, 1945.
(All with Joseph Lilley & his Orchestra).

Always Sincerely
Bing Crosby

BING - AND THE LAND OF SONG

It is said that whenever two or three Welshmen - or ladies - are gathered together you have the basis of a choir. And in my experience that is certainly true. There are various theories as to how Wales came to be called "The Land of Song", none of them very persuasive, I fear. Still, no need to go into that here.

+ There is Tom Jones and many other popular singers, of course, and their names come readily to mind - Secombe, Peers, Squires, Albert & Les Ward, Emmanuel, and many others - but by and large, the Welsh valleys and towns are more concerned, if not with classical singing, at least the more vigorous anthems, hymns, songs, etc. Orpheus societies, choral societies, amateur operatic societies, plain chapel choirs, Gleemen, and so on abound on every hand. And, of course, National enthusiasm isn't confined to chapels and churches - by a very long chalk. The singing of the pre-match rugby crowds at Cardiff Arms Park is a byword for tone and enthusiasm. And I must confess that I have dropped into little out-of-the-way pubs, up in the hills - and been astounded at what amounted to a first-rate concert being given entirely free by customers! It invariably ends with a roof-lifting performance of Cwm Rhonnda or Land of My Fathers.

+ Similarly in factories in Wales. Given any pretext - Christmas or other holidays, even a breakdown in machinery, the premises are soon ringing with upraised voices. There is never a shortage of soloists volunteering - and when it comes to choruses the harmony comes as naturally as rain. I like it very much.

+ It follows that I work with a lot of people who partake in these vocal activities. Indeed, one of my colleagues has been a first-class bass-baritone in almost all the vocal cultural societies mentioned above. Its not unusual for him to come in to me and say: "You recognise good singing when you hear it - did you hear the Pendryus - or the Morriston - Choir last night?" Or it might be the Garndiffaith Gleemen. Many a long and most interesting discussion have we had on music and singing. And I well remember early in our acquaintance another colleague said: "It's Bing Crosby you want to talk to him about" - indicating me, of course. Now, as I indicated, my friend was the type who pushes out his chest, takes a deep breath, rivets his eyes with his colleagues', on the exceedingly energetic conductor, and let's rip with Sauspan Bach, &c.

+ I conceded that Bing was a particular interest of mine - and added that perhaps Bing wasn't entirely his line of country - or singing. "Good Heavens," my friend replied, "Who doesn't like Bing? But, I can tell you an interesting story about Bing Crosby from many, many, years ago.

+"I remember we were doing a tricky new anthem for some festival or other. We had been practicising for months and months, and always our phrasing was never quite what the conductor wanted. Time and again he would bring us to a half with 'No, No, No' you are emphasising the wrong words.....I'd like to get Crosby here to sing it for you!

+"At this, there was a bit of surprised murmuring from the ranks, Bing Crosby! "But he's a crooner," finally protested one of the choir members. "Crooner or not," answered the conductor, "it would do you all good to listen to the way that Bing Crosby phrases his songs. Make no mistake, Crosby is either a supreme artist, or he does it naturally - perhaps a bit of both - and his phrasing, even in the stuff he sings, is superb!' And if you can get a bit of his timbre into it that will be a big help too!'

+ My colleague confessed he was a little surprised at the time - this was 25 years ago, but remarked that he listened to Bing with new ears after this [illegible] - and fully accepted all the conductor had said about Bing. "[illegible]," he will add, "Bing doesn't sing my sort of music - well, not often - and I have no great time for dance bands and all that goes with them -- But Bing Crosby is a world apart and I always listen to him with the greatest pleasure." - I thought it a nice story.

DEATH OF LEO McCAREY

+ Just two weeks after the news of Judy Garland - and in vastly different circumstances - came the news of the death of Leo McCarey, the eminent film director. It will have to be left to our pukka film experts on BING to tell the story of Leo - and I'm sure they will.

+ Primarily, however, for us he was the man who made Bing Crosby "The Reverend", and brilliantly directed him in his only award-winnning role, an Oscar in fact. So among all the luminaries with whom Bing has been associated, certainly Leo McCarey has an honoured niche. It is hardly necessary to add, perhaps, that the film was "Going My Way", with its "sequel" "The Bells of St. Mary's." They were too highly satisfactory films, nothing sophisticated, good fun with a touch of sentiment - and the "kitchen sink drama" era still years away.

+ Certainly, despite Bing's early misgivings about playing a priest, the choice was immaculate and fitted Bing as a glove - though what Eddie Lang would have said can only be conjectured! The cinema-going public seemed to approve, too, for both these films, so utterly different from the legendary Road productions, were very popular and successful. Not always the same thing. And one mustn't forget the undoubted powerful influence of Barry FitzGerald, who struck up, as so many other partners have, a wonderful association with Bing. Their combination was a very happy inspiration.

+ Bing himself told the story in "Call Me Lucky" of how closely identified he became with the priesthood, as a result of these roles. He wrote:

> "I'd heard of the public identifying actors and actresses with roles, but this was the first time I'd got the full treatment myself. Not long after 'Going My Way' was released, I attended a dinner part at the home of my friend, Jack Morse. Before dinner, hors-d'hoeuvres were served, among them toasted frankfurters on toothpicks. They were served by a grey-haired, motherly-looking maid from the Ould Sod. It happened to be Friday, and when I absent-mindedly took one of the frankfurters, I thought she'd have a stroke. 'Holy Mother, Father Crosby!' she burst out, snatching it from my hot little hand, "you're not going to eat one of those!' The other guests collapsed with laughter, and she retreated in confusion to the kitchen. I was a little confused myself.
>
> "That maid wasn't unique in confusing me with Father O'Malley. From Africa to Japan came letters addressed to Father Crosby. All kinds of communities wanted me to drop whatever I was doing, visit them for a while and form singing groups for children to keep them out of trouble, the way I'd done in 'Going My Way'."

+ For the record, the songs in these films, contributing heavily to their success, were:

GOING MY WAY: Going My Way; Swinging On A Star; The Day After Forever; Too-ra-loo--ra-loo ra; Ave Maria; Silent Night, Holy Night.

BELLS OF ST. MARY'S: Bells of St. Mary's; Adeste Fidelis/Aren't You Glad You're You; In The Land of Beginning Again.

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With reference to "Bing Crosby, Accompanied By....." it is the intention to deal with every accompanist on a Bing Crosby commercial record. It follows, therefore, that finally every reader will in fact have a complete discography, albeit under the names of accompanists.

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ABOUT THIS AND THAT - MAINLY TAPES..

+ There is one certain way to get the letters and tapes flying about the mails - mention the 1944 broadcasts of Bing via the B.B.C. - and the possibility of Bing having been accompanied by the Glenn Miller Orchestra, as our old Cobber, Keith Hyde, did in the last issue of BING! But it is beyond any shadow of doubt that the tape Keith described - Franklin Engelman introducing Bing and the opening number "I'll Be Seeing You" - was NOT accompanied by Glenn Miller's orchestra. So if the G.M. Appreciation has indeed accepted this as bona-fide Bing-Miller then they have, unfortunately, made a bloomer of the first magnitude. Too many leading Crosbyites in this country have the full tape of the programme for there to be any doubt. The orchestra was that of the A.E.F. directed by the late George Melachrino.

+ Apart from any evidence of that sort, however, the orchestra behind "I'll Be Seeing You" has nothing in common with the Glenn Miller sound. Yet I must confess that for years I suffered under a misapprehension, for I recall that broadcast. I remember being tickled pink to think that after all those years of admiration for Bing at a distance he was actually broadcasting over our own domestic, prosaic, B.B.C. - with a home-grown orchestra! And up until fairly recently, I was convinced that the orchestra that accompanied Bing on this historic occasion was the then B.B.C. Variety Orchestra under the direction of CHARLES SHADWELL! However, I must certainly be in a minority of one - and in view of the aforementioned evidence of people possessing the tape, must cede that my memory was sorely at fault. Yet, it is not illogical. The Variety Orchestra was the most versatile outfit the B.B.C. ran in those days and was used for all sorts of occasions. It would be a logical choice to accompany Bing (or any other visiting celebrity). I wonder if the full tape of this broadcast does in fact carry the name of the orchestra? The part I have does not, but its little more than the intro. and the one song.

+ I think what has misled Keith though is the tape he described is not one programme, but excerpts from sevdral. Thanks to Stan. White I seem to have a similar tape. It starts off with the intro. and "I'll Be Seeing You" described above, then there is a true Glenn Miller number - [illegible] - then Bing sings "It Could Happen To You" in which Bing gives a laughing aside "Don't laugh - this stuff might come back one day." This is followed by Bing singing "Johnny Dough[illegible]y", and then a really great version of "Stardust" - better than any of the commercial issues. So, clearly, this is a tape of snippets. But taken as a complete whole, it would seem to indicate Glenn Miller presence. Mind you, I'm not saying that the Miller orchestra did NOT accompany Bing in England on any occasion. Merely that he did not in the B.B.C. broadcast that started with "I'll Be Seeing You". (Typing went haywire above - the Miller title is "String of Pearls".

BING'S LATEST TAPE TO ENGLAND:

+ The really big item on the tape Stan White sent me, however, was Bing's most recent tape message to admirers in the U.K. This was done at the behest of a Mr. Eric Waters who operates a Hospitals and overseas broadcasting service in this country. In fact, he sends out about 200 taped programmes each week. One of these is called "Pot Luck" and carries all sorts of items. He is allowed to "infringe" all copyright re. recording discs, etc., and indeed, uses B.B.C. announcers in their spare time. It was for "Pot Luck" that Bing did the tape. Bing in a typical opening suggests that Hope would be a better proposition for "pot" luck, and goes on to say that he doesn't do much in the way of recording these days - "the sprouts have taken over" - and there isn't the call for the stuff he does. Once in a while a producer comes up with an idea and he does an album. Bing remarks - this was in April last - that he will be 65 in May and goes on to say that he's kept busy and describes his current activities, especially the sporting ones. But, to quote from the tape:

"I've been asked to do what is called a run-up on my career, but I don't go much for that biographical sort of thing -- seems to musty and dusty. I could tell you about what

BING'S MOST RECENT MESSAGE: (Cont)

I've been doing in the last couple of years, the last 12 months perhaps." There followed the remarks about not many records, "spouts taken over", so many young and keen groups "and they're good, too".

"Not many pictures either - I suppose its 2 years since I did a film. But, I'm very busy in television, doing about 16 shows a year. Each one takes 3 to four days to do - I do m.c.ing, sing a song or two, take part in sketches, fool with the comedians, and so on. A lot of fun, but hard work while you're doing it."

+ One big surprise in this tape is that Bing nominates London as his favourite city. Lot of warm friends there, good conversationalists, and so on. This is a surprise for I remember particularly that Bing has nominated Paris on at least one previous occasion as his favourite city. Bing then went on to talk about his horse, at stud in Dorset, that the best golf-courses in the world were very handy, and that racing was a lot more fun in Britain than America, pointing out that there was a constant change of scenery, everybody did a few days at one course, then all packed up and went to another. He said he wouldn't talk about his children in case he was boring but they were a lot of fun, revealing in that process that Nathaniel now has a soccer ball.

+ The whole tape is redolent of Bing's utter sincerity, particularly as he knew he was speaking to hospital patients. He finished by thanking people for listening to him! Typically superb Crosby.

+ Should anyone like to hear this - or take a dubbing of it - I will gladly loan it. Just get in touch with, say, a 6d stamp for postage. If must, of course, be carefully treated and NOT accidentally erased! The speed is $7\frac{1}{2}$ i.p.s. two-track. The above musical items are also on this track, e.g. 1944 broadcast intro. Glenn Miller, Bing's superb "Stardust" &c. I MUST INSIST ON A SPEEDY RETURN!

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BING'S COCK IN "WOMAN'S HOUR" Cont.

+ So this, too, made quite an interesting item and I was glad to hear it. It was fairly recently broadcast - say three months ago - and I imagine that "Woman's Hour", especially between two and three in the afternoon, isn't usually heard by many Crosbyites. Here again, if you want to hear it, you are welcome...it ended with - Bing singing "Home Cookin'"

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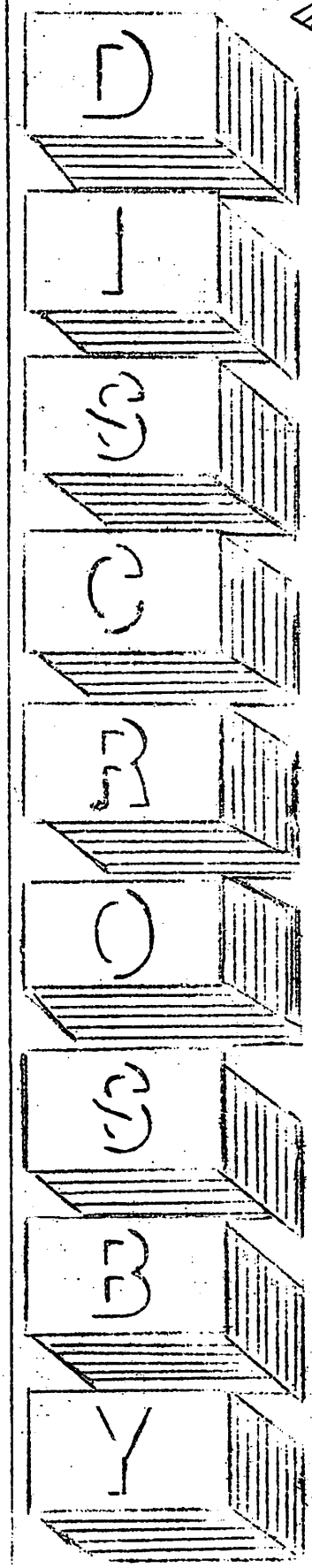

CHAT ABOUT RECORDS - OLD - AND NOT SO OLD

How I'd loved to have been in the studio the day Bing made "Mule Train". It must have been an unforgettavle virtuoso performance! This, of course, the song Bing said he would have gone on oxygen to sing if need be.

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Difficult to imagine that this rip-roaring performance was given by a man presumably sitting in a chair with his hat on the back of his head. I find it so life-like, with Bing's uninhibited imprecations directed at the recalictrant team, that I feel stiff at the end from the tough ride! "Lop-eared, leather-necked, ring-tails...."

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+ On the other hand, I could have missed "Be-Bop Spoken Here" with no qualms whatever - except of course, that any chance to be on a Crosby recording session would have to be taken. But I can never recall that incredible "Be-Bop" interlude without a degree of nausea. How on earth it ever took the fleeting hold it did baffles me. Tuneless, moronic - why, it might have been a forerunner of today's "pop". I'm sure Bing thought so when you recall the end of the record, with Patti giving forth with the ludicrous phrasing, Bing says: "You all right dear ? - Can I get you something ?". A most unhappy episode in popular music. Yet one has to preserve this "souvenir" of it - because Bing dabbled with it! Once again, however, I prefer to believe that his participation was more an ironic gesture.

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+ Seems that the respective merits of two and four-track recorders can cause quite a bit of hot air among some people. So I'm not - not at this stage - anyway, trying to argue the merits for or against either. Except to say that on a four-track recorder, you can in the span of a micro-second, switch from the Bing of Mack Sennett days to - "Hey Jude" - and its a most fascinating experience. It was purely accidental that this came about, Jude on Track 1 and early 30's on track 2.

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+ This speedy switch from the ancient to the modern should certainly be an exercise for those who spend their waking hours discussing and pondering on the difference the years have brought to a voice which, despite all, remains indubitably and basically unalterably, Bing Crosby.

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+ It is a well known fact that many albums contain an "odd-man-out". Examples are "Tobermory Bay" - a Scottish song on an otherwise Irish-influenced album; then there is "Blues In The Night" on the album "Songs I Wish I Had Sung" - Bing did of course sing this Mercer number on its original appearance with the Andrews Sisters; and I always regard "Little Spanish Town" in similar fashion on the Spanish album. This was a Buddy Cole small combination job made in the late 50's whereas most other numbers on this album were with the well-equipped Xavier Cugat outfit mainly. "Spanish Town" did not have the authentic Spanish touch and influence that was immediately felt in the remaining numbers - and was very apparent.

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+ Bing's ability to sing in authentic Spanish was a major factor - and of course, there was no suggestion of this in "Spanish Town" - turned into a pseudo-rhythmic number. But the same feature of "odd-man-out" occurs in the 10" album I mentioned a page or so back wherein, or wher on, Bing sings Cole Porter.

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+ The odd-man-out on Cole Porter, of course, is "I Never Realised", recorded in 1936 when, as this record illustrates, Bing was doing the verses as well. All these other Cole Porter numbers - Begin the Beguine, Night & Day, I've Got You Under My Skin, I Love You, Just One of Those Things, Rosalie and Easy to Love, were all recorded in the middle and late 40's. Bing himself confessed that it was a curious thing that he had neglected the fine songs of Cole Porter. I well remember the omission, for Bing's failure to record "Begin the Beguine", for example, was most conspicuous when Tony Martin in America, and Chick Henderson in this country, not to mention "Hutch" as well, were having enormous success with this number which did, as a curiosity, get off to a slow start.

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+ Same happened with "Night & Day". Seems everybody was singing it - except Bing. Perhaps Bing felt he should leave the field with this one to Fred Astaire! But this same number presented a bit of a paradox when Bing did eventually record it, for this was one song where nearly all others sang the dirge of a verse. Bing didn't. Cannot say I particularly regret this, for the verse was a bit much and was far outshone by the refrain.

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+ Collecting Crosby recordings, it is slowly realised, is akin to painting the Forth Bridge - the old railway one, not the new motor bridge! For years this has been quoted as a never-ending task, i.e. when you finally get to the end it is time to start again. The bug hits you at various ages and soon you are buying or hunting for all the old Brunswicks, Columbias, and what-have-you. You're snapping up all the albums as they appear. When you think you are well on the way you come over with something of a shock that undoubtedly some of Bing's finest efforts are not on commercial record at all but contained in hundreds of radio shows. So you make tentative steps towards acquiring some.

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+ Then, the most resounding shock of all, possibly, it is borne in on you that without possible doubt, many of the songs Bing sang in the Mack Sennett short films are the finest he ever did. One has only to consider "Dream House", or "The House Is Haunted". And then when you finally hear "Every Time My Heart Beats" you can only helplessly ask: "What next?"

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"DISCROSBY"" cont.

+ What a beautiful number this was - is! I have just the snippet of it, but I play it time and time again. How can anyone understand why this great number was never recorded commercially? I cannot for it would have surely been one of the finest Crosby records of all time. My snippet, together with several others, including "Lovable", came from my very good Keighley friend, George Smith, who with his wife Rene, cartoonist Jack Feather, Mick Drury and Mike Crampton of Leeds, not forgetting Alf Farrow, Ken Hoyle, and many others, make up a very strong Yorkshire contingent of Crosby admirers. Fitting, perhaps, for after all it is the largest county.

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+ Not apertaining to records, perhaps, but I must mention the transparent delight of young John Bassett who has just received a magnificent photograph of Bing from the maestro himself. It is autographed: "To my friend, John Bassett, Yours Bing Crosby". That's great, and if anyone deserves it more than John after writing that magnificent tribute to Bing I cannot imagine who it can be. Good for you John. I'm delighted with you.

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+ As a result of my appeal for BING 15 in the last issue, I have indeed obtained it - and if you want any of the BING 1 - 15 series they have them in stock at the E.M.I. Record Shop, 363, Oxford St., London, W.1. No sign of "Twilight On The Trail", I regret to say! The service is pretty prompt - by mail - and if you address your enquiry to Miss Landau it is even more prompt.

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+ Regular Sunday visitor indeed - "Sing You Sinners" on B.B.C.1 Sunday afternoon, 13th July. What a good 'un this was, with its memorable "Small Fry". And for once, the plot wasn't all that predictable. It is usually easy to spot autobiographical coincidences in these films of Bing's, and "Sinners" was no exception - particularly when Bing hit the trail from the old home to make good. In a predictable plot he would have achieved this end as a singer! But, despite the excellent teaming of Bing with Fred McMurray and Don O'Connor, the horses won, with singing a poor second. I could have wished it otherwise! Excellent entertainment, nevertheless.

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+ As I complete the round-up on this occasion, the sun is shining brilliantly, the U.S. trip to the moon is under way, the Test matches are exciting - but all pales into insignificance at the news that Bing has signed to do two more albums for Amos, the people who sponsored "Hey Jude". That's fine news indeed. Furthermore, Epic may STILL do the Volume 2 of the Bing Crosby Story. Altogether the outlook is good.

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+ Our good friend over on the Isle of Wight, Les Gaylor, presses on with his indefatigable plugging of Bing, bless his heart, with excellent results. He wrote a nice letter to Amos - indeed, as I did - but Les got a reply! Among many nice things, they stated quite unequivocably that they know how to record Bing, thank you! Another letter Les received, typically laconic, came from Larry. No doubt some of my readers think I might adopt Larry's style! He wrote: "Yes, Bing is making another album for Amos. Do not know the tunes yet. Too late for 'I Left My Heart in San Francisco'. No schedule now for a trip to Europe. Bing, wife and Mary Frances are filming 'Goldilocks' for Disney. Many thanks for clips. Regards Larry." Reads like a telegram, don't it? You will have seen the plug in Tit-Bits of July 5 Leslie engineered for the Longines set. You probably heard some of his radio requests. Indefatigable, that's ol' Leslie.

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VIEWS EXPRESSED BY CONTRIBUTORS IN "BING" ARE THEIR OWN AND NOT NECESSARILY THOSE OF THE EDITOR.

BING AND THE GLENN MILLER ORCHESTRA. Stan. White.

Keith Hyde has raised again the question of Bing broadcasting with Glenn Miller Army Air Force Band in England. Here are the facts as far as I can trace them.

The band landed in England on June 29th,1944, first they were stationed in Chelsea,London; after a few days they moved to Bedford where they remained until going to France in December 1944. Their job was to broadcast over the Allied Expeditionary Forces Programme of the B.B.C. to the troops on the Continent and to do live shows for the troops stationed in England or rather the United Kingdom. Most of the broadcasts were done from the Corn Exchange building in Bedford, later some were done from the Queensbury All-Services Club in Soho,London, actually the Casino Theatre. Many broadcasts by the full orchestra were also heard on the B.B.C. Home Service, these programmes were often recorded.

The band was known as the American Band Of The Supreme Allied Command and on August 10th 1944, Captain Glenn Miller was promoted to Major. Bing first appears on the scene on September 1st 1944 and at this time he sang on about half a dozen programmes with the full orchestra and various sub-units.

September 1st 1944 (guest star...Bing Crosby).

Here We Go Again/Long Ago and Far Away/My Buddy;Amor,Amor; Farewell Blues/ Swinging On a Star/Poinciana. Bing sang on them all apart from the first.

September 3rd 1944.

Bing replaced Sgt Johnny Desmond on this broadcast.

Amor,Amor/Long Ago and Far Away/White Christmas/I'll Be Seeing You. All with Bing.

No more accurate details are available, so we'll skip the guess work. It is safe to say that if Bing did broadcast "I'll Be Seeing You" and "Why Don't You Fall In Love with Me" from the Stagedoor Canteen, that it certainly was not with the Miller orchestra or a unit from it, in fact it is a safe bet that he broadcast those two numbers with R.S.M. George Melachrino and the British Band Of The A.E.F. and that it was done from the Paris Cinema(B.B.C. Studio)London W.1., naturally during the above period of time.

Going back a few months, the whole Miller A.E.F. Orchestra and singers did play a special half-hour stage show at the charity premier at the Plaza Cinema in London of Bing's film, "Going My Way", one of two actual public performances in London, numbers featured were, In The Mood/Juke Box Saturday Night/Holiday For Strings/Poinciana/The G.I. Jive/ The Anvil Chorus. All information indicates that Bing was not present, which is probably why Miller went in. To give the charity performance a good boost I mean, not for any other reason than the almost certain fact that Bing was not present so Glenn helped out. I imagine Miller fans blessed Bing for not appearing or Miller almost certainly would not have done, in those days the top stars were too much in demand to be huddled together in one show,this was reserved for radio, when shows could be recorded anytime of the day or night.

Franklin Engelmann seems to be the announcer for Bing's "I'll Be Seeing You", and this is what he had to say to me in a letter dated 28th July 1956; "I can give you no information as to the whereabouts of the Miller transcriptions, Jack Dabbs of B.B.C. Gramophone Department might be able to help, or possibly the U.S. Embassy P.R. man could have a look back.

It has all been so long ago that I cannot help you with dates or details; I remember Bing singing to the crowds at Kettners Restaurant and I recorded him in an interview at an hotel in Paris, but I kept no diary and the memory is now very hazy and sketchy. Sorry?".

Leads at the B.B.C. and American Embassy were followed up, and while some Miller material was discovered, none of it featured Bing, RCA Victor grabbed it.

A letter from Associated British-Pathe Limited published in the February/ March 1958 edition of "Crosby Collector" had this to say."The material we have concerns the opening of the Stagedoor Canteen by Mr. Anthony Eden and was released by Pathe Gazette on Thursday 7th September 1944. Bing Crosby featured in a cross--talk act with the late Jack Buchanan, and sang "Amor,Amor". Stage Door Canteen was in Piccadilly at that time and Mr. Eden was Foreign Secretary.

Pathe Gazette is now known as Pathe News and has been in circulation since 1910. It is possible to have a 16mm combined print made of the newsreel item and the

cost of making such a print would be about £10. 10. 0d.

According to our records it does not seem that the Glenn Miller Orchestra accompanied Bing Crosby in the item used by Pathe News.

We trust this information will be of help".

In a letter to me dated June 20th 1956, Bing Crosby had this to say; "I recorded quite a few songs with Glenn Miller down at Bedford when he was stationed there with his group. These and the other things I did with Miller were the things I was trying to get hold of, but nobody seems to know what has ever happened to them".

Colin Pugh of Bristol then came up with, "Why Don't You Fall In Love With Me" and "I'll Be Seeing You", believed to have been done with Miller, and this is the recording which Keith Hyde has got hold of, certainly Geoffrey Butcher of the Glenn Miller Appreciation Society thought they were with Miller, and this is how the legend started, many Miller enthusiasts had copies of these items from Colin. I sent a tape of the two numbers to Bing, Larry replied on January 17th 1957 with these words; "The Glenn Miller tape was received last August and forwarded to Bing while he was in Hayden Lake, Idaho - hence the delay in answering. He says, Many Thanks, for a nice keepsake."

So Bing accepted them as being done with Miller it appears ?

After much more searching and letters to many people including Brian Rust who was with the B.B.C. Gramophone Library for quite a while, nothing could ever be established for certain concerning the transcriptions which certainly were made at Bedford and elsewhere, Rust ventured to say that every so often material which is considered of no further interest is destroyed by the B.B.C. But he also could not imagine this being the case with this material because if it was of no use to them, it was almost certain that someone would have rescued the material at least for their own private collection. Someone has mentioned that B.B.C. announcer and D.J. - Alan Dell has some rare material by Miller done during the war years, in fact this information filtered through from the Glenn Miller Appreciation Society, but repeated letters addressed to Mr. Dell c/o the B.B.C. over the years and by many people including myself, have failed to get a reply from him ? There could be a reason for this, if he really does have such recordings, it is doubtful if he would advertise the fact simply because the true ownership of the material might be questioned. On the other hand if he does rightfully own it, what a strange thing that he has not cashed in on it by now, or previously when RCA took other B.B.C. Miller recordings, some of which were included on a special sampler E.P. to advertise an album of 2 or more LPs featuring the AEF band.

No less an authority than Ralph Harding has confirmed that the two songs we have been discussing were done with the British Band of the AEF, and Ralph has, or knows someone who does have the entire broadcast from whence these were taken, for reasons best known to that unknown person, this entire broadcast is not to be passed around for collectors in general to hear. At least it solves the true identity of the orchestra who accompany Bing, and listening to these numbers you can certainly reckognise the Melachrino touch, once it is realised that it is that orchestra. This in itself is not at all a let down, George was a very fine leader in the field of light and popular music, and to hear Bing accompanied by him can be looked upon in no other way than being a rare experience.

On the subject of Bing and the Glenn Miller AEF band, Geoffrey Butcher of the Glenn Miller Appreciation Society did recieve a very long letter from Bing about 1956/7 , in which Bing recalled those days with Buzz Bombs etc etc., and of having Broderick Crawford..the film and TV star with him at the time. I cannot find a copy of that letter at all, it was certainly published in the Miller Society journal,"The Moonlight Serenader", and I have an idea that Frank Murphy may have reprinted it in a "Crosby Post" of that period, but on going through my back copies I cannot trace it. I know the late Bill Taylor had a copy of the letter.

Finally, the famous photographer, the late Sir Lancelot Vining, did take some photographs of Bing at the Stagedoor Canteen, I have copies and you can see that a full orchestra would be impossible, you can tell by the drapes around Bing that the stage was very small. As a matter of interest I also have a shot he made in close up of Glenn Miller himself with Dinah Shore. That's all. S.W.

.....STAN WHITE continues.....

On the question of the Sept Ist broadcast, Keith says that Bob Roberts heard Bing sing IS YOU IS OR IS YOU AIN'T MY BABY. This is obviously correct. I do not list it because the broadcast on that day was obviously a transcription. Bob obviously saw one of the others being recorded that day. Bing crammed a lot into a few days. I only wish Bob could remember the rest of the programme But I know and can confirm what Bing said...he did record quite a lot at Bedford with Glenn because I know a man named Bill Rabbit who saw Bing there. Also worth mentioning that JACK JACKSON'S book RECORD ROUNDUP published a dozen years ago also pictures Bing at the STAGEDOOR CANTEEN, although this is not stated in the book.

.....I have come across the following from I957;-

BING CROSBY AND THE GLENN MILLER AEF BAND

A letter from Bing (date unknown) had this to say - " appreciate very much your letter with information relative to recordings done with Glenn Miller during the war. I can understand thoroughly how difficult it must be to dig up any of this material. I just seems strange to me that it should dissapear completely from sight, and I am loathe to believe that some of it is not around somewhere. I would like the two recordings you mention that were taken from Stagedoor Canteen broadcasts, the matter of quality is not important - it's just that I would like these items as a souvenir of an old and dear friend" - (THESE ARE OF COURSE WITH MELACHRINO AS WE NOW KNOW)

.....I now quote from an article I wrote in I957 regarding a letter from the BBC

"The BBC say they have no existing recordings featuring Bing with Glenn Miller, although most of the programmes were recorded, the recordings were destroyed as of no further interest. At the same time they said that no recordings were in existance at the BBC featuring the Miller AEF band in anyway, and yet hardly two months later we all read of the discovery at the BBC of recordings featuring the band which were supplied to RCA Victor and issued as a booster for the AEF album in America.

Now Jack Ellsworth, programme director - dee jay ay WALK, Patchoque, New York, is a great admirer of both Glenn Miller and Bing Crosby and is known to have some very rare transcriptions?, unfortunately I've never managed to contact him personally yet, - perhaps he could help?"

Well the mystery remains unsolved in I969. My belief is that someone somewhere has something stacked away. Definate details of no fewer than 50 broadcasts via BBC are known, and the BBC admit that the majority of them were recorded. These were I5 and 30 minute programmes, yet, apart from the EP material issued through Victor nothing else of this material has survived? believe it if you like. I say someone somewhere has a 'rare collection' of Glenn Miller.

SW.

..... the following comments are made available to "BING" magazine by Decca executive GEOFFREY A. MILNE

Reference the last edtion of "BING" (May) and it is about an article in this mag that I am really writing - Let me make reference to Keith Hyde's Australian Air-Mail on page 46, and set out the facts correctly, with note to the tape Johnny Jones sent to him.

The statement by the American voice is quite wrong in claiming that Bing sings with the GEenn Miller A.E.F. Band, and I am very surprised to read that the G. M. Appreciation Society accepts the recordings mentioned as bobm fide. I personally don't think it even sounds like the Miller band of the time.

I have the discs of the complete broadcast. They were recorded by E.N.S.A, on three I2" records and are of a program presented by The Broadcasting Service of Britains

.....continued on page 34

GEOFFREY MILNE continues;.....

forces on September I2th I944. After the initial announcement, Franklyn Engleman introduces the British Band of the A.E.F.., conducted by Regt. Serg/Major George Melachrino. Engleman's voice is the one referred to as that of 'a typical BBC announcer. The complete programme is as follows;-

Band; Sing, Sing, Sing
Bing; I'll Be Seeing You
Band; Caravan
Band; Donegal Cradle Song
Bing; Swinging On A Star
Bing; With A Song In My Heart

The is no indication on the records where the broadcast was made. Program 6 is indicated by the legend B/AEF 6.

That Bing did broadcast with Miller is not disputed, as Bob Roberts has stated, but I have never heard any recordings made of such broadcasts nor found anyone who has. I hope this will help to straighten out the facts.....Geoff Milne

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STEVE MASON ...ON RECORDS ...NEWSDAY June 6. I969

Nostalgia without gimmicks, without a trace of pretension, has the honesty and conviction that all the big-band revivals lack. Steve Mason, a Bronx sales manager who modestly bills himself as The Crooner, is a guy who has devoted much of his life to musical nostalgia. A baritone with a virtual obsession for the vocal styles of Bing Crosby and Russ Columbo. Mason has two albums out on his own Decatur label.

One THE CROONER has Mason singing such meaty chestnuts as I SURRENDER DEAR, I'M A FOOL TO WANT YOU, SAY IT IS'NT SO, andAFTER YOU'VE GONE.

The other STEVE MASON SINGS CROSBY AND COLUMBO is the crooners pacan to the bygone ere of 32 bar melody, white flannels and depression blues. Such mellow stuff as I FOUND A MILLION DOLLAR BABY, JUST ONE MORE CHANCE, RAMONA, IF I HAD YOU.

The nice thing is that Mason is'nt kidding or camping around. He means every note and word and though his voice is'nt what it must have been when he played engagements at 52nd Street's ONYX CLUB, LEON AND EDDIES, and the SWING CLUB in the 40's he projects with much sincerity and love. Anf if Tiny Tim (whatever became of him) can make it, why not Steve Mason.

fuller details from STEVE MASON
2716 Decatur Ave
Bronx - NY I0458. USA

FRED ROMARY writes from NEW YORK; July I969

"There is some news on the Bing scene here, it seems Bing is recording two albums at this time. One is Current Standards and the other is a Christmas LP on Amos. In fact both are for Amos. Bing and the family recorded three selections of the Sherman Brothers for the upcoming NBC TV spec GOLDILOCKS to be shown in the Fall. I feel it will be an original cast LP. I don't know yet who will get this one. RCA Camden has issued RENDEZVOUS, a rehash in stereo only of the Crosby/Clooney FANCY MEETING YOU HERE. The LP is two selections shy. I hear it will be issued on the new low price series RCA has in England. They have I2 LP's out in the first release."

WHEN WRITING TO ANY OF THE CLUB OFFICERS PLEASE ALWAYS EXTEND THE COURTESY OF A STAMPED SELF ADDRESSED ENVELOPE 9 unless otherwise stated - In the interests of safty please always CROSS PO(s CHEQUES etc and make them payable to THE INTERNATIONAL CROSBY CIRCLE

BING WAS HERE - BUT OH, SO SHORT A VISIT!

by THE EDITOR A "Crosby Collector" Special

I had a pretty good idea that Bing would fly in for a week-end (which explains the request for phone numbers in the last issue, with the intent of rapid contact) and so it came as no real great surprise when a faithful contact informed me that Bing had flown into London Airport (Heathrow) on the afternoon of Thursday July 24th from (of all places) Iceland.

Giving Bing and hour or so to reach his London Hotel, I rang the Connaught and was immediately put through to Bing. "Hello, Ralph, nice to hear from you again" was his opener, which was so relaxed and friendly that it virtually threw me. And so without prior rehearsal as to what I was going to say, we launched into a phone conversation which I can only describe as trivialities. There was one amusing interlude when Bing heard Diana speak from the kitchen and asked after her. I called to Diana something like "Say a few words to Bing" but Diana was busy with the dishes and shook her head. So I blurted out without thinking, "You can't talk to her, Bing - she's doing the washing up!" There was a slight pause and then he roared with laughter. Finally, he ended the conversation by asking me to call on him at the hotel the next day at noon. I agreed but naturally.

The blow came when Diana, who had overhead the conversation, reminded me that I was scheduled to drive the two children down to the sea-side, Margate, on the day I had arranged to meet Bing. Panic! The answer was to get up at the crack of dawn and drive the children down, drive back and be in London by noon. I had also made arrangements to call in to see Bob Roberts on the return trip - and this had to be scrubbed out, (so if you're still waiting for me Bob, please accept my apologies!) In the meantime, this was a good exercise to see if I could phone to people to let them know. I spent the next three hours on the phone and Tony Carpenter also volunteered to phone around for me to such far afield people as Colin Pugh at Bristol, Frank Hatwell (Birmingham), Keith Parkinson (Cheshire) while I also tackled other calls. Between us, we managed to contact about fifteen people at some time or another during the evening.

Today, Friday 25th. things went according to plan, the children arrived at Margate safely, and I got back to Grosvenor Square by noon, having completed a 170 mile round trip in five hours. Every conceivable thing went wrong (I took the wrong route and landed up at Erith, the car broke down four times and I had to nurse it between service stations) but nevertheless, I duly presented myself at the hotel at 12, noon. Having announced my arrival to the receptionist, Bing came down a few minutes later, walked up and shook me by the hand, explaining that he had to go over to Berkshire and the car was waiting outside. (He pronounced "Berkshire" the American way to rhyme with "work" and "hire")

The conversation was therefore short, lasting a mere ten minutes, and went like this (give or take a phrase) ...

RALPH Nice to see you again, Bing, and I must say you're looking very well.

BING I feel well (patting his chest) I keep pretty fit.

RALPH You've arrived for the good, sunny weather ... the sun only shines in London when you fly in.

BING (using his Irish accent) Blarney ... you sure you're not Irish?

RALPH Never lived outside of London in my fifty years ... that makes me about your age.

BING I can't be sure after what you've written about my age. (His eyes twinkled and it was obvious he considered this quite a joke!) Now, Ralph, I've really gotta run. (He called to his driver in a huge car which had pulled up outside the main revolving doors ..."be just a minute, John") Continuing to me ... "Anything you want signed or something?"

In the next fleeting minutes, Bing signed a mock-up of the next 1970 New Year's "Crosby Collector" cover, "Happy New Year to all fans and readers of "Crosby

Collector", Bing Crosby" and also a special photo of himself in topper with Kathy "Sincerely, Bing Crosby" and finally an old favourite cover "To Ralph From Bing" (all of which I hope to reproduce). Questions came from me thick and fast but it was obvious that he had to go. He told me he had been making a film in Iceland about salmon fishing, that he had to pick up Kathy from London Airport in the evening, take in a show, play an afternoon golf, and leave on Sunday to fly on to Kenya on safari. And then he was in the car, puffing happily on his pipe, and away. And you can take it from me, he really looked great.

The bronzed sun-tan of a man who spends most of his time outdoors, his blue eyes that really penetrate, the lean, slim figure, trim and well kept.

Despite the fact that he has a reputation for being a flashy dresser, I have always thought he looked sartorially elegant. He was dressed in a navy blue blazer with the "Pebble Beach" Golf Tournament insignia, fawn slacks, brown suede shoes and topped with a light snappy hat with a wide multi-coloured band. He looked very cool, smart and relaxed. I presented him with the latest "C.C." and a new ISCC tie.

One final thing ... when I announced at the desk that I was expected by Bing, an elderly gentleman standing by pricked up his ears. A few minutes later he was talking to the morning-coated manager and he had obviously asked or enquired if Bing was actually staying there. I overheard the manager telling him that Bing was a very nice man, perfect gentleman, no trouble at all and extremely considerate. I think we can all endorse that appraisal!

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So it looks like no Bing at the Albion for this time round. So short a stay with so much to do and so little time to do it all. I still have high hopes, though!

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On the next page (Page 5, this issue, which was typed before Bing's visit) I discuss the possibilities in the event of a sudden visit. Well, the event happened except that it was obvious Bing couldn't make an Albion meeting. But IF he had been able it would have been impossible to contact everyone. I managed to contact several readers (with the help of Tony Carpenter) and naturally informed Frank Murphy of the news and other interested parties. The exercise has proved that, unless Bing is staying for some period of time, a meeting with enthusiasts at the ALBION is out of the question.

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FRANK MURPHY writes;

In case you hav'nt already guessed, the above article comes direct to members of the ICC from the pages of THE CROSBY COLLECTOR, during our memorable phone chat on Saturday July 26th we both agreed on this admirable mutual exchange - the important news most certainly warrents it and I'm grateful to Ralph for ringing me all the way from London to tell me Bing was in town - After talking to Ralph I rang the CONNAUGHT and was able to extend the club's greetings to Bing personally, the maestro sent his regards to all.

Ralph's article, Alf's comments etc, make the setting as it applied here during the closing days of July as CROSBYFULL as it could ever be - just the previous Tuesday we'd had a repeat on BBC 2 in colour of the BING CROSBY SPECIAL with Bob Hope etc, and on Tuesday July 29th the day Bing and Kathrn left England, BBC I screened THE ROAD TO MOROCCO - I think 1969 will go down as the biggest Bing year ever -

NEWCASTLE EVENING CHRONICLE Tuesday July 29th 1969

The "Old Groaner" Bing Crosby and his wife Kathryn, leave Heathrow Airport for Athens on their way to Nairobi for a two week safaria. Bing who has already been on two African safaris said; "It's mostly the camera we fire at the animals. It's a great way to get away from everything". At 65 Bing still records 15 television shows a year, as well as appearing on other TV shows and recording. Before he boarded his flight he quipped "At 65 I'm drawing social benefit, the only trouble is that Bob Hope is first in line"

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BING AT 65

(The Canadian Gazette - 26/4/1969)

At 65, the elder statesman of popular song refuses to appear in "salacious" movies. "I think of these new kids in my second family," says the OLD GROANER,"and I don't want 'em to see me in that kind of picture".

A VISIT WITH BING.

The little town of Hillsborough is a suburb of San Francisco, and it lies a few blocks off El Camino Real where the main business in the area is automobiles and motels. But Hillsborough's main business is providing lush and private real estate for the rich. It's here, on the start of one of those curving hills where some houses are perched on top and some are tucked into the sides and some are hidden away underneath and only the ones costing less than 200,00 dollars are visible at all, where the streets are called Way and Drive and Outlook but never streets, here, somewhere, lives Bing Crosby. But where ?

In the end I ask a tiler, whose hammering on the roof of a new mansion up the way is the only sound in the green spring air.
"Mr. Crosby ?" he echoes gently. "I believe you mean Bing." In Hillsborough even the roof tilers sound as if they hold PhDs in the tiling arts.
"He's round the corner and up the driveway."

Crosby's number, in a road of ascending numbers, is actually lower than that of the house next door; if it adds to confusion, it also adds to privacy. The house isn't huge, not for a man with three kids from seven to almost 11, a butler, butler's wife, a governess, and the trophies of a lifetime, but it looks comfortable and extremely attractive. It also looks like a small French chateau, though it's only about 30 years old.

The butler answers the door. He's English, never butlered before, and he got the job through his wife's brother, his predecessor, who quit because "there just wasn't enough to do." A cheerful helpful sort called Summers, he says Crosby's gone to the dentist and why don't I call back later at this number which they'd all be very happy if I didn't give out because it was unlisted and had just had to be changed ? Of course I will I say, and go out and join the rest of the world on main-drag suburban America, which is only four blocks away but might as well be on the other side of the moon.
As far as today's furious youth goes, Crosby (65 on May 2) might just as well be on the other side of the moon himself. If they're hip to the name

at all, they probably either confuse it with comedian Bill Cosby or relate it to Gary Crosby, Bing's eldest son, now 37, sometime semi-teenager singing idol, now trying to hack it as an actor. But Bing ? Sixty-five ? Don't make us laugh: Sinatra's in his 50s and did you ever hear anything so absurd as Frank trying to make it with us by singing DOWNTOWN ? Take 'em to Retirement City.

For these it's hard to realise - and for their immediate elders to remember - just how big Bing Crosby has been. It's accepted as found truth by those who figure out such things that he is still, despite the Beatles, the heavyweight champ of record sales (300 million); he was also, which always surprises anybody who wasn't brought up on the movies in the Thirties and Forties, for some dozen years one of the Top Ten box-office names in Hollywood. He was the first band singer to become an international idol. And he spawned a legion of imitators, of which the inexcusably sloppy Dean Martin is the latest example.

Despite all this, what did anyone know about him ? He had this mock-feud with Bob Hope. He liked horses and golf and hunting and fishing. He smoked a pipe, had jug ears and never took his hat off unless he had his hairpiece on. He sang **White** Christmas (15 million sales at last miraculous count) and made all those Road movies playing himself. His first wife, Dixie Lee, was a great jazz singer in the making who gave up her career for Crosby and - the story ran - Saved Him From Himself (And Probably The Gutter). Dixie died of cancer. Their grown sons were disappointments. Then Bing had a new lease on life by marrying Kathryn Grant, Texan starlet-newspaperwomen 30 years his junior.....

Hell, he was an old-shoe, comfortable and easy. And lucky as all get out. He even admitted as much in his auto-biography; Call Me Lucky. But what else ? There must be more than luck to the guy.

Persistence, for one thing; he won't give up. And unlike an actor, who should improve with age, a singer who doesn't give up can be plainly heard for what he is - i.e., not what he was. This past season Crosby did three specials for NBC, five Hollywood palaces for ABC, plus guest shots for Bob Hope and George Jessel; it usually makes a total of 12-15 shows a season

Why does he do it ?

When he returned from the dentist, it was about the first question on the list. He had returned the day before from his fishing pad in Baja California, he was berry-brown and his pate glistened in the library under the Papers Of Thomas Jefferson in 16 volumes and the Works Of Rudyard Kipling in 25. You **might** think his eyes, **blazingly** pale blue, were sleepy or lazy except that they seldom blink and they miss nothing; they looked the question over carefully.

"Once in a while I think of gettin' out of the entertainment world altogether," said Crosby, and drew on his pipe. "And then I think again, and stay just where I am. These days I arrange my life around huntin', fishin', and golf, whereas in former years I got 'em in when I could get away. As for singing, I guess I'll go on singing as long as I can get something in my range. And as long as I'm asked. Record companies are always importuning me to make albums - I don't know why, because they don't sell. But it's easy work and I like it. If it's somethin' I can still get away with, I'll try it."

Apart from the singing, then, what about doing more acting ?

"I haven't been able to find something suitable for my age. When something does come my way it's usually in something salacious. I don't want to be connected with those things and there's far too much of 'em. Besides, it's not my style, you know ? People will take that sort of stuff from Hope, he's the wise guy from down the street, from the local pool hall. But not from me. I think of these new kids in my second family (Harry Lillis Jr., IO, Mary Frances, 9, Nathaniel Patrick, 7) and I don't want 'em to see me in that kind of picture."

A thought struck him. He turned incredulously. "If they go much farther, it'll be the END. The other day a producer of Hollywood Palace was telling me he went to see a play in Hollywood - Sal Minoo was in it - and you know what the high point of it was ? Two men on stage, one of them Sal, committing sodomy. Now where DO you go from there ? I tell you, I wouldn't be happy growing up today."

Crosby likes droppin' the final g: this, and an occasional obvious grammar error, helps cloud the fact agreed on by everyone who knows him - the man has a mind like a steel trap, really reads those books in his library, and is (among other things) an authority on the Cival War.

"My day, we entertained ourselves in groups much more. Today if you don't have affluence as a parent, you're in trouble. The kids want so much more to keep up with the other kids - cars, Hondas, colour TV. Makes for a lot of frustration, both for them and their parents. In my circle, I can't recall and mixed-up kids at all."

His circle revolved around a family of four boys and two girls of an Irish-descended matriarch and a brewery-bookkeeper father, whose grandfather, Nathaniel, had been one of the founding fathers of Portland, Ore. Bing's father was a carefree sort, who after his retirement became his unofficial booster in Hollywood, carrying around piles of his son's clippings to show anybody who'd listen, Bing's mother was the impetus of power around the house - devout, no-nonsense, a member of the church choir - and Bing was her favourite child.

The basic bones of his career fit into five frames: singing with Al Rinker and a group called the Musicaladers at dances and in the pits of Spokane movie hpuses; Rinker and Crosby teaming up with Harry Barris as Paul Whiteman's Rhythm Boys in the middle and late twenties; Crosby having his first success with Gus Arnheim's band at Los Angeles Coconut Grove in 1930; his first marriage, his switch from jazz to crooning after the death of his brilliant guitarist, Eddie Lang, and his sudden and enormous success, both with his new singing style and in the movies, grossing him for years on end at least 1,000,000 dollars annually; finally Dixie's death, his remarriage in 1957, the wane of his career after the movie HIGH SOCIETY, his quiet myth deification as the Sportsman (once refused admittance at the Hotel Vancouver, after a fishing holiday, as an unshaven bum), and his current nonchalant doodling through some tired-looking pages on TV.

Part of the Crosby story - when they make the movie, starring Bobby Darin - will undoubtedly be a hymn to Crosby The Family Man, with the odd comic-sour note for dramatic counterpoint about Crosby The Drinker. His first marriage has been publically portrayed as idyllic (though that is hardly the truth and Crosby was on the road for too much of the time for it to have been idyllic for Dixie); and so well and lastingly did he project an image that American men wanted to imitate, that the Family Man easily

survived all the young blow-outs of his sons Gary, Philip, Dennis and Lindsay.

Once, in the late Fifties, they were relaxing in a Vancouver cabaret after a singing engagement when an off-duty RCMP officer made a slighting remark about "those Crosby boys". The latter have been known to bicker among themselves but this was a declaration of war against the clan. the ensuing donnybrook would probably have ended in jail if their manager , at his wit's end, hadn't had a brainstorm.

"Remember Dixie!" he suddenly shouted.

Like performing lions to a trainer's codeword, they remembered, and were led, more or less meekly, back to their stalls. "They were extremely close to their mother," says one Crosby observer. "Their father was so often away."

In his library, pipe-burbling on the chesterfield opposite the Western oil by Charles Russell and the mantelpiece carrying his Oscar for Going My Way (1944) and the horse statuette for being Grand Marshal of the Calgary Stampede (1959), the father admitted this.

"The great difference between my second and first marriage," he said, "is that now I spend more time at home with my children. That's all to the good. But my other boys have straightened up now. I had some long stormy periods with Gary. I used to jump him out a few times. But he hasn't had a drink in eight or nine years, and he's doing fine.

Bing rates Philip "the best singer of the lot, but lazy about promoting himself." Dennis works for an air-freight company; Lindsay rents out saddle horses for TV and movie westerns. "Those kids had too much money," says Larry Crosby, 74. Larry acts as his brothwr's public relations man, which largely consists these days of organizing the annual Crosby golf tourney at Pebble Beach. "They inherited a lot of money from Dixie, everyone knew it, and that's why they got mixed up with the showgirls. But that's all over now - haven't heard a whisper about them for some time."

One other major myth about Crosby has to do with his drinking. It's true he used to do a lot of it, especially the gut-rot stuff during prohibition (I don't know why there weren't some periods of blindness," he says in his convoluted way.) One time, in a Chicago speakeasy, Crosby passed out from an excess of lab alcohol mixed with colouring, and came to in a hotel room. As his head cleared he realized that (1) the people with him in the room were members of the Mob; and (2) that they had taken him there to protect him from being rolled and thus giving the speak a bad name.

Mastermind of this ploy was machine-gun Jack McGurn, one of the executioners at the St. Valentines Day Massacre. "Jack was a very nice fella," Crosby remembers, associating him in memory - as he often does - with how Machine-gun Jack played golf. "He was a darned good player. I never beat him. He showed up once at a National Open and played nine holes under an assumed name. And then they found out who it was and took him off the course."

But the folk-lore part of his drinking habits is that without Dixie's help he would have been a drunken nobody. Certainly when they married (1930), she was a bigger name than he was, but she was not averse to a drink herself. As insiders tell it, Crosby took himself by the seat of the pants and did what had to be done. Larry Crosby remembers:

JEAN PAUL FRERAULTS CANADIAN AIR-MAIL continues.....

"The big change in Bing's life came when he made The Big Broadcast film in 1932 - that's when he knew he had a chance to make it big, and so he cut out the monkey business. Bing told me, 'You take my wife and associates down to Caliente (a Mexican gambling spa of the time) and keep 'em there as long as the money holds out. They want to do nothing but play, and I'm going to work.'"

Cutting out the monkey business led, maybe coincidentally, to a series of things. He became the world's most popular singer (in one U.S. Outstanding Personality poll of the Forties he topped the lot, including General Eisenhower, President Truman, and the Pope): but in becoming more familiar he grew vocally less interesting, and anyone doubting this should compare Home On The Range or White Christmas with any of his earlier cuts on The Bing Crosby Story 1928-32, Epic label. He became outstandly wealthy (buying pieces, at one time or another, of oil wells, radio stations, real estate, a frozen orange-juice manufacturing concern, baseball teams); a horse owner and breeder; and public philanthropist (he raises, still, some 300,000 dollars a year for charity); and, most curiously, a kind of inventors fairy godmother.

About 25 years ago, he and his brothers Larry and Everett (his business manager, who died in 1966) set up something called the Crosby Research Foundation - later cannily changed to Institute, because Foundation sounded as if they were throwing away cash. The CRF (or I) was designed to develop inventors ideas, then changed the ideas to people or markets who could use them best. One of the early ideas developed within the Foundation became a vital piece of the first atomic bomb, a release mechanism to make sure the bomb would not whiplash back into the plane. Another, highly successful on the open market, was a breathalator, a throat spray that killed breath fumes, notably alcohol (and supposedly foiled breathalyzers).

But the good ideas have been losing ground to the crackpots. One of the last had a scheme for a grandstand that MOVED WITH THE HORSES: "Imagine the scene," Crosby murmured dryly, "at 5 p.m. with the clubhouse full of drunks, and suddenly they look outside and find themselves keeping pace with the nags...." The wildest scheme of all came, near the end of the Second World War, from a man who suggested catching hundreds of thousands of bats in New Mexico's Carlsbad Caverns, immobilizing them with temporary knock-out shots, fixing an incendiary device around each bat's neck, and finally dropping them over Tokyo where they would find their way into every nook and cranny...and THERE, in the fullness of time, their body heat would explode the incendiary devices, and all-wooden Tokyo would go up in a sheet of flame.

"Don't laugh," said Crosby. "The air force looked into it quite seriously at the time."

Lately, though, the INSTITUTE has fallen on lesser days. Maybe the national inventivness is dying out, but from a peak personnel of about 30, it now consists solely of Larry Crosby and 34 form letters to deal with the nuts.

In the last decade, much of the interest about the Crosby's has centred on Kathy Grant, his second wife, whome he married 12 years ago when she was 23. "It was a long, frenetic courtship," said Bing. Said she: "One of those years, when Bing built that house in Palm Springs, we weren't speaking at all." "I didn't particularly care what people said about the 30 years' difference," Crosby added. "I just wasn't sure I could be a good husband for a gall with a mind like that."

Kathy Grant Crosby is a crisp handsome woman of ambition (where Dixie had none); a lady who chooses the daily biblical passage from the open Bible on the lectern in the hall; who has found time since her marriage to become a registered nurse and a schoolteacher; who writes (Bing And Other Things came out last year; sales were "just fair," says Bing); is a much-in-demand MC for fashion shows, acts when she can (with a University of Texas repertory company this summer); and has been the object of a couple of chilly stories in the San Francisco papers, both suggesting that she was a coolly efficient automaton.

This certainly wasn't the woman I saw briefly. Efficient she must be, but warm too, and breezily beyond the ordinary sort of showbiz neuroses. "Nice of you to catch me without my face on," she said, on the way outside for the photographer. "Nevermind, you look just fine," I said quickly, which is what one always says at those times. "Said he quickly," she replied, and went out laughing to corral Mary Frances, Bing's only daughter.

Later Bing went round the back to shoot a couple of baskets with his second sons, Harry and Nathaniel. Harry, seeing the camera: "What's that for, Dad ? Charity ?" Dad gritted on his pipe and flung the ball at the net. He missed. He's had bursitis in one arm and hasn't been able to play golf let alone basketball, since last August. When he's fit, he shoots in the mid-70s. He easily beats fellow golf-nut Hope, one year his senior. "Of course he beats me," Hope snapped when asked about this later. "The old man spends all his time with the pros while I'm dreaming up ways to get him a comeback."

Now Crosby looked at his sons who were angling shots at the net from all over the small court with the un-thinking arrogance of youth. "I'm just growing old, " he said ruefully, testing his bursitis. " I was pretty good in my day. Of course that was before they started breeding giants." ON HIS DAY. One of the best things about Crosby is his lack of illusions. His latest album, out this month, features such young hits as Hey Jude, Those Were The Days, Little Green Apples, and Both Sides Now. But he knows his days as a singer are over: perhaps the very extent of his choice in the plush years (religious, cowboy, Irish, children's, Hawaiian, dramatic, jazz, patriotic, comedy) meant there was nothing distinctive left for him in the leaner autumn years of the type that Sinatra has made peculiarly his own. Crosby gives no hint that he regrets anything. He says he'd start it all over again tomorrow if he had to come around the track a second time.

ONE MAN SAYS: "THERE ISN'T ANYTHING
HE WOULDN'T HELP YOU WITH."
TO ANOTHER, HE'S "A COLD TOMATO."

"Only this time it'd be a whole lot harder," he said. "Look at the standard of the young singers today - Diana Ross, Tom Jones, Vikki Carr, John Gary ....In my day there were so few others around. And the groups! The Fifth Dimension, The Association, the Doodletown Pipes, the Beatles - all showing much more musicianship than groupss did a few years back. The Beatles were kinda raw when they came in, but they've proved to be fantastically talented."

In everything, then, rosy up there among the eucalyptus trees and the rolling lawns, and the little courtyards, and the 15th-century Della Robbia terra cotta bought from the Hearst estate at San Simeon, and the white Rolls riding at anchor ?

JEAN PAUL FRERAULT'S CANADIAN AIR-MAIL continues.....

HE FIND POLITICS REPUGNANT: "THE DEALS YOU HAVE TO MAKE, THE LOBBYING."

Not quite. Crosby has severe doubts about the U.S., and the American youth. Here he is, talking in his slow, careful, courteous way: "Reason I got interested in the Civil War was I could never figure out how this country could be so divisive, so fracticidal - and here we are at it again. I'm not politically minded. Politics in this country are repugnant to me - the deals you have to make to get anything done, all that odious lobbying.

"You know, the National Association of Recording Artists is trying to get a piece of the action whenever a record gets radio or jukebox play. It doesn't mean much to me at this stage, because my records aren't played any more. But I agree with the NARA because there is an inequality there. So I went up to Washington and said my piece to some senators. The trouble is that the NARA is up against a mighty powerful lobby of the jukebox interests and the radio stations - and lobbying just doesn't seem a fair way to decide it. I'm not going back there, I've done my bit, and I'm certainly not going to put up any money to finance another lobby of our own.....

"I remember when I was young, most of the kids spent what time they could outdoors. But now ? Yesterday at the dentist I picked up a copy of the Berkeley Barb (a campus newspaper) and read this ad about 'young man, 22, blonde, blue-eyed, good-looking, excellant stud' - like something out of the Bloodstock Review. Choo-c! What a society.

A MAN WHO'S KNOWN CROSBY FOR A LONG TIME SAYS: "IN MY BOOK, HE'S A LOSER."

He burbled on his pipe. "I worry about the future," he said. "Not about death, because I can't think of anything more I can accomplish within my sphere of limitations. But how are we really improving ourselves. Has mankind advanced in the last 4,000 years except in obvious fields like medicine and technology ? Nope." He burbled some more as the sun turned the corner of the house and the shadows lengthened through the library windows. "From somewhere back in my Jesuit education," he picked up, "I remember the lines: 'Ill fares the land, To hastening ills a prey, Where wealth accumulates, And men decay.' Very apposite for the world today. "

"Recently I had a talk with my son Harry. I sat him down and told him a bit about me, how his father has a lot of money and he's very lucky, and that that puts a great additional burden on him, how he has to do better than everyone else or he'll be singled out as a boy badly raised by a wealthy father. Seems to me that out of simple gratitude, if nothin' else, you ought to put some of it back into society. I like to use the example of the Rockefellers. We don't have anything like that, but the Rockefeller boys could have sat back and done nothing. And look what they've done."

The Crosbys may not be Rockefellers, though Crosby and Hope are popularly regarded as Rockefellers of the entertainment world. Published reports say Crosby is worth 40 million dollars plus; Fortune magazine (May 1968) listing the richest people in the U.S., put Hope in the 250-500 million dollar bracket - which irritated Hope so much he used it in his routines for about six months.
"I just don't know where people get those figures," said Crosby, eyes widening with wonder. "I guess if I sold everything, fulfilled all my obligations, I'd come up with 2½-3 million dollars. Hope'd probably come

up with 8-9 million dollars. No matter which figure you go with, Crosby's business acumen is a matter of record. Not least of the acumen has been his ability to puff genially on his pipe and let his trouble-shooters (notably brothers Larry and the late Everett run interference - and be seen to run it.

That's Bing at 65, a careful man, outwardly serene, giving the impression he fears that if he ever claimed more than Luck for himself, the gods would descend on him and run his oil wells dry, depreciate his real-estate holdings and run his stocks right down into the cellar with no takers. A man proud of his privacy - enjoying life and people on his own terms, and moved seldom, perhaps, by either.

Hope says of him: "A complete artist. A good comedian. A great way with a straight line. He's by nature a Gemini (his horoscope is Taurus) like Jane Russell and myself. There's a double person going on there, something about him will always surprise you. Hell, he's a great friend!"

Another man who has known him for a long time sees the double Crosby this way:

"I tell you, Bing's an oddity, a cold tomato. Nobody'll believe it when I tell you, because people prefer to believe the 90-per-cent-fantasy Hollywood hogwash that's always written about him. About 10 years ago he was a miserable man. I've heard it said he's changed a lot in the last 10 years - mellowed. Well, he had a long way to mellow. In the old days he was genuinely jovial. All this big-words, devil-may-care attitude he has now came with his success, a wall he's built around him. And those eyes! 'Barracuda eyes' we call them. A lonely man, I don't think he opens up even to himself. In my book he's a loser. We used to be friends, but I met him once after a couple of years and I might as well have talked to a tomato. Forget it, Charlie."

Hope, on the other side of Gemini again: "There's nothing he wouldn't help you with. Over the years he's retained his friends. That's the measure of the man."

The contradictions of Gemini! Maybe we can only know for certain that, at 65, Crosby isn't the man he once was. And if some people are sorry about it.....well, most people at 65 are sorry about it, too. ----David Cobb----

o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o

Alf Farrow here....

In the last issue of 'BING' reams and reams was taken up with the merits and de-merits of HEY JUDE/HEY BING. Since then and even now, as I type this I have listened to this LP many times, and for me 'More and More' is the track for me! All in all, it is a very good LP but 'Those were the Days' could have been left off! My list, in preference is top of the shop.....

MORE AND MORE.
LONELY STREET.
LIVIN' ON LOVIN'.
LITTLE GREEN APPLES.
HEY JUDE.
IT'S ALL IN THE GAME.

the rest I just by-pass!

PWPWPWPWPWPWPWPWPWPWPWPWPWPWPWPWPWPWPWPW
W P
P W
W FROM MIDDLESBROUGH ENGLAND P
P W
W P
P THE PETER WILSON COLUMN W
W P
P W
W P
PWPWPWPWPWPWPWPWPWPWPWPWPWPWPWPWPWPWPWPW

Since the last 'BING' I have had BBC 2 and Yorkshire TV (Channel IO) aerials erected, and this has proved very lucky as far as Bing's films are concerned. Because in a period of 3 months I've seen no less than ELEVEN films since April! In fact, my diary lists more films than records!

On Sunday, May 25th, BBC I screened 'Tops Is The Limit' in which Bing sang "Sailor Beware" - an old classic. This was the earliest film I've seen of Bing, and he looked no more than about 25

The film 'Just For You' (with Jane Wyman) seems to have a hoo-doo on me. When it was first released about I952, I was in the R.A.F. stationed near Wolverhampton and it was shown at a local cinema, But on the night I planned to go I was grabbed for guard duty! Yorkshire ITV screened it on May, IOth, but I was asked to work over at the last minute - so I have still not seen it!

In the 'mag' you mention the famous Stage-Door Canteen in London, and Bing and Ann Shelton singing a duet there during the War. Well, just before last Christmas I heard a recorded programme on the radio in which that duet was recorded and the song was "Easter Parade" - it was, I believe, an impromptu recording.

One of Bing's early films 'Rhythm On The River', was shown on BBC I on Sunday, June 22nd, but I didn't think very much of it. Only one song seemed to.....

(AT THIS POINT, 9.40, A BING RECORD ON 'FAMILY CHOICE' - "MORE AND MORE!)

(Sub-editor comments mmmmmm....I wonder why ?)

dominate the film, "Only Forever - a great song, but I would have liked to hear more.

Well, I am looking forward to the last week in August when I am off on holiday to Belgium, and day visits to Paris and Amsterdam. I believe Paris is one of Bing's favourite cities. Anyway, I'll be keeping an ear open to see if I can hear any of his records over there!

One of Bing's 'family shows' was screened by Yorkshire ITV on Monday, May 5th., The show is more of comedy than music - I heard only a few notes from Mr. C. However, BBC 2 gave us 'Blue Skies' on Wednesday, May I4th - this I think, is one of Bing's best films. I liked the way he sang "Got My Captain Working For Me Now" and "See You In Cuba".

In a recent musical film on BBC I (non-Bing), Jimmy Durante makes a guest appearance and sang a song in which he sang -

"I've Got A Bit Of Bing Crosby In Me", but I can't recall the name of the film.

As I said earlier, my diary contains more films than records, for the period April/June. This must be a RECORD!

April	4...	Galway Bay.....Radio.
	5...	Gone Fishin'.....Radio.
	6...	Film:- Welcome Stranger.....BBC I.
	19...	Beautiful Dreamer.....Radio.
	23...	Film:- Emperor Waltz.....BBC 2.
May	1...	Scene from 'Here Comes The Groom' in "Cinema".....ITV.
	5...	Bing Crosby Show.....Yorkshire ITV.
	10...	Film:- Just For You.....Yorkshire ITV.
	14...	Film:- Blue Skies.....BBC 2.
	21...	Mary - a Grand Old Name.....Radio.
	25...	Film:- Tops Is The Limit.....BBC I.
	26...	Film:- Here Comes The Grrom.....Yorkshire ITV.
	27...	How Deep Is The Ocean.....Radio.
June	1...	Film:- Road To Zanzibar.....BBC I.
	12...	Moonlight Becomes You.....Radio.
	22...	Film:- Rhythm On The River.....BBC I
	23...	Did You Evah.....Radio.
	27...	Film:- Country Girl.....ITV.
July	3...	More and More.....Radio.
	13...	Sing You Singers.....BBC I.

It seems as if we've had more of Bing than Coronation Street lately!

Anyway, that's it till the next 'BING' - best regards to all,.....

Peter Wilson.

Sub-editor:- Best regards to you Peter, and here's hoping you have a great time in Belgium. "HAPPY HOLIDAY".

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CAN YOU HELP?????????? A selection of members requirments;

NEIL HUNTER writes from 50 Ravenswood Park, Braniel, Belfast 5, N Ireland
I am about to start compiling tapes of Bing Crosby records in chronological order if possible. In order to do so I need lists of his recordings set out in yearly sequence - Can the ICC supply me with this information?

IF YOU CAN HELP NEIL IN ANY WAY, PLEASE WRITE TO HIM DIRECT TO THE ABOVE ADDRESS

JACK DOUGAN writes from 10 Trevor Street, Holywood, Co Down, N Ireland
I would like to obtain a copy of Bing's LP "NEW TRICKS", also Kathryn's book, BING AND OTHER THINGS, if any club member can oblige I look forward to hearing from them.

IT CAME TRUE

by

ALF FARROW

Saturday, 26th. July, 1969 - entry in my diary reads 'Spoke to Bing on the phone at 10.5 am'!

I have been waiting since about 1928 for an event like this to happen and, thanks to Frank Murphy, it really happened on the above date. Just plain 'thank yoy', Frank, sounds very inadequate for your help in giving me the opportunity to speak to, and listen to, - BING CROSBY! But I know you will understand my feelings, Frank, when I repeat my most profound thanks for the chance of a lifetime.

It was 9.45 am. and I (enjoying a weeks' holiday), was luxuriously stretched out in bed, contemplating arising to make a start on some decorating! My number one, and only son, came upstairs to tell me I was wanted on the phome, and it didn't sound like a local call. I thought it might be Frank with some news for the mag, - it was Frank with some different news altogether - Bing was in London and if I cared to phone him, he would have a word with me. I sat awhile, chewing over what I would say to Bing and at 10.5 am. I took the plunge and dialled the number of the hotel - and as near as I can remember here is the conversation:-

The hotel operator answered my call and I asked if I could possibly speak to Mr. Crosby ? She asked me who I was, so I told her - Alf Farrow of the International Crosby Circle and she asked me to hold a moment. And then, the voice of voices said,

"Hello"
"Who is that ?" I said.
"Crosby here"
"Good morning, Bing - Alf Farrow here of the Circle - how are you"
"I'm fine, Alf, how are you ?"
"O.K. thanks, how are all the family ?
"Fine, thank you"
"Frank Murphy rang me up earlier this morning to tell me you were in England and said you might have a word with me"
"It's a pleasure, and nice of you to call and enquire after my family and myseld"
"Not at all, Bing, it's nice, very nice to be able to speak to you for a short time - you don't mind me ringing you, do you ?"
"I dont mind at all - not at all"
"I hear you aren't staying with us long, Bing ?"
"No, I am going to Africa tomorrow"
"Oh, I see - well, have a good time and a pleasant journey"
"Thank you very much"
"And what's on for today then, Bing ?"
"Oh, we are going round the town to take some pictures and view the sights"

(I hear a voice in the background - could it have been Mrs. Crosby ?) and then Bing said,

"Will have to go now, Alf, so thanks again for ringing"
"Thank you for sparing the time"
"Not at all, Bye now"
"Bye Bing and all the best"

AND THAT WAS THAT.

IT CAME TRUE continues.....
If there is a word to describe such an occassion, I cannot find it! It proves to me one thing though, that Bing, even though he doesn't have to - he has a comfortable life aheas of him now - and he isn't compelled to subject himself to his admirer's whims and fancies - sincerely appreciates what the Circle means to him, and to us, and his words on that "Convention" tape are not 'empty'.

Thanks once again Bing, for those very precious moments and thanks to Frank once more.

Saturday, 26th. July, 1969 - what a day to remember!

Incidentally, Frank Briggs also made a call to Bing about 6.0 pm and was fortunate enough to have a word or two with the great man. He was as elated as I was and he came round to my home for a couple of hours of pleasant discussion about our calls along with a tune or two. Naturally!

o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o

WHAT DOES BING MEAN TO YOU?....Reg posed this pointed questionaire in the last issue of BING -, the questionaire was admirably qualified by the remarkable testimonies of FRANK ASHURST and JOHN BASSETT in this issues REG BRISTO COLUMNS, to which we'd like to add another written by Crosby stalwart JOHN FLEMING....

"In 1961 I sat an talked with Bing in his dressing room at Shepperton Studios for 15 minutes and it was a most thrilling exoerience. Bing has a presence about him, I prefer that word to personality, that no other singer of popular songs can hope to emulate. In the land of gimmicks and ever changing tastes Crosby has reigned supreme year after year and even now in the twilight of a fantastic career still regarded by millions as a symbol for great songs.

Great bands with their great instrumentalists, some of Bing's early material with these men, the way he blended is really terrific - Though Bing seems to have ambled through life, in reality he worked very hard and is dedicated to his career, both singing and acting and the fact that his health has stood up remarkably well to the strain of constant publicity is I belive due to his own self disipline.

Another factor in Bing's success, Larry Crosby has provided tremendous support for Bing's activities, this non singing partner could open more than a few eyes if he revealled just how much charitable work is done by the Crosby's.

In closing may I say that all Crosby's work contains pleasure. No other singer can to me, anyway, convey such quality of voice and bring a melody alive the way Bing does and I'm so happy to be associated with the Crosby Circle where so many other chaps share my feelings regarding Bing - I was almost 15 when I first thought he was the greatest. I will be 50 on my next birthday and I'm still of the same opinion and I shall always feel privileged to say "I sat with him once for 15 minutes you know".....John Fleming.

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PORTRAIT OF BING

Our spies in SPOKANE, WASHINGTON report that Bing has been making frequent trips there recently to have his portrait painted by an up and coming Eastern European painter who has received commisions from many leading USA personalities.....REPORT VIA JOHNNY JONES...

THE FRANK MURPHY COLUMN

Thursday July 3rd, though it had nothing to do with Bing, was the occasion of an event which will live long in my memory, for it was in the early minutes of One A.M. that Alma woke me saying, "Frank, is that your car engine" upon which we both rushed to the upstairs bedroom window where we were amazed to see a youth in the driving seat of my car, reving the engine . I rushed downstairs and was able to drag this thief from my car and into the house, where, using my superior weight, sat on him whilst Alma, poker in hand, phoned for the police - the subsequent case made amusing reading -

THE JOURNAL and NEWCASTLE EVENING CHRONICLE Thursday July IOth

A RUDE AWAKENING

Lying in bed late one night Mr. Francis Murphy, cinema manager of Lovaine Place, North Shields, thought he heard his car engine being started. He found a youth sitting in the driving seat, Tynemouth magistrates heard today. John Capps (I9) of Rectory Drive, Gateshead, admitted attempting to take the car without the owners consent and stealing a radio from another car. He was fined a total of £30

.....When John Maughan heard the news of this escapade he immediately dubbed me "ROCKY MURPHY" - let this new title be a warning to any member who might be thinking of attempting a military coupe of the ICC - ha ha.

AUSTRALIAN MEMBER BRIAN MITCHELL VISITS NORTHERN H.Q.

On a much happier note was the visit to the North of England of Brian Mitchell, who whilst holidaying in London, decided to travel North to visit with Alma and I. we were delighted to host Brian, to play the tapes and records and also to lay on a little 'do' in his honour - DON WOOLLAND set the wheels in motion and some interesting coverage awaited Brian here in North Shields.

BORDER PRESS circulated the news that a meeting of the club was to take place on Wednesday July 9th and BBC "VOICE OF THE NORTH" carried a report of Brian's visit on both of the early morning newscasts on July 8th - Reporter Norman Brown of BBC Newcastle arrived to cover the meeting and stayed nearly 5 hours, thoroughly enjoying events that took place. The recorded interview with Brian was broadcast on VOICE OF THE NORTH at 6.25pm Thursday July IOth (a copy of the broadcast is now en route to Brian in Australia). Don Woolland and Ken Robinson took numerous photos of the members present and it's hoped that a souvenir set will be made available via BINGPICS. We even managed to get ourselves mixed up with the signalmen's strike, as the following press cuttings will show. But it was a wonderful occasion and we scored a 'first' for Brian in that he had to come all the way to North Shields from Australia to hear the voice of one of that Continents "Ace" collectors, non other than KEITH HYDE, for part of the evening's programme contained Keith's last message on tape to the club - Brian had also met for the first time, whilst in London, another 'great' on the Australian scene, JOHNNY PURCHES who was also in England on holiday - the two met at Ralph's INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY OF CROSBY COLLECTORS, meeting at The Albion Hotel in London - so I'm sure Brian will have taken many happy memories back to Australia with him.

THE NEWCASTLE JOURNAL Tuesday July 8th

3CO MILES FOR BING

Bing Crosby fan Brian Mitchell is to travel 300 miles from London today to North Shields to meet the secretary of the International Crosby Circle. The secretary, Mr, Frank Murphy, a cinema manager of Lovaine Place North Shields will show Mr. Mitchell his collection of Crosby records, tapes, and pictures.

THE NORTHERN ECHO Tuesday July 8th

VISIT FROM A BING FAN

An Australian Bing Crosby fan is travelling from London to North Shields today to meet Mr Frank Murphy, secretary of the International Crosby Circle, based in the town. Mr Murphy, a cinema manager of Lovaine Place, is to Show Mr Mitchell his

collection of Crosby records, tapes and pictures which he displays in a specially decorated room in his home. Mr Mitchell who comes from Richmond, Australia is in London on holiday.

THE NEWCASTLE JOURNAL Thursday July IOth

BING GETS A MISS

Early morning commuters can be consoled that they are not the first to be inconvenienced by today's 24 hour strike by signalmen. Jimmy Moore of South Shields, who is acting as spokesman for the striking railwaymen, has already been affected himself. Last night he should have been taking his wife along to a meeting of the Bing Crosby Society at North Shields. Instead his wife had to go alone, While Mr Moore who is a great collector of Bing's old 78 records, sat it out at yet another emergency meeting in Gateshead.

OOOOOOO

I'm pleased to be able to report that Jim did arrive, though a little late and I'd like to take this opportunity of thanking all those members who did turn up to great Brian. A special thankyou to KEN ROBINSON too for bringing his movie camera down and giving us a film show of the BBC TV film of the memorable meeting at my Wallsend home in I964, also the hilarious dancing film featuring that unique trio MAUGHAN, MURPHY and ROBINSON - John and I had planned a silver collection at the end of this film, but because all the members had left before the end, we were unable to dothis, ha ha. Also shown was a colour film featuring many of the local members at a club party at Wallsend - happy days.

OOOOOOOO

CLUB MEETING - NORTH SHIELDS - SUNDAY November I6, I969

A cordial invitation is extended to all club members of The International Crosby Circle and The I930's Record Society to attend a meeting at my home on the above date - the session will open at 4 P.M. and the programme will include music and records to interest both groups - More details will be made available in the magazines prior to the meeting date.

OOOOOOOOO

I read, as always, the newsy items sent to the club by our good friend in Israel, SAMUEL STERNBERG and I thought Sam had a very good idea in asking for an article covering Bing's TV productions. These have of course been lightly touched upon by the club in recent years - I'm sure someone like LESLIE GAYLOR could make these Crosby presentations the subject of a more lenthy and more informative series - any chance of this Les?.

OOOOOOOOOO

Robert Jones of North Shields, who recently celebrated his I9th birthday continues along a happy Crosby collecting path - the recent spate of Bing on TV has provided Bob with some very good movie soundtracks on tape - he was telling me how impressed he was with the new stereo albums he'd bought, THOROUGHLY MODERN BING and HEY BING HEY JUDE.

OOOOOOOOOO

Talking about Crosby films on TV prompts me to mention that I've lost count of the number of people who praised Bing's acting in THE COUNTRY GIRL following it's recent showing on Tyne Tees Television here - it's always seemed a great pity to me that Bing sort of went all to pot filmwise after this film, apart of course from the magnificient MGM starrer HIGH SOCIETY-The newsflash on page 43 of the July CROSBY COLLECTOR that Bing and Bob are to star in a film THE BRIDE WORE BLINKERS is heartening to say the least - let's all hope this is'nt just another of those dreadful rumours.

NO OFFERS WILL BE ACCEPTED FROM NOnMEMBERS OF THE CLUB

A number of items have come into the club bank for clearing - your offers are invited for the following (closing date October 5th) All EX to MINT

Brunswick OE 9103 PEACE AND BLESSING
Brunswick OE 9293 SONGS I WISH I HAD SUNG THE FIRST TIME AROUND (part 3)
Reprise EP R30018 RETURN TO PARADISE ISLAND
RCA(Aust) EP20402 IT'S A GOOD DAY/ALOHA MEANS I LOVE YOU/THE MUSIC OF HOME/etc
Philips 45 PB 921 SAY ONE FOR ME/I COULD'NT CARE LESS
WB 45 WB 83 THE LITTLE DRUMMER BOY/I WISH YOU A MERRY CHRISTMAS
Brunswick 45 05928WHERE THE BLUE OF THE NIGHT/GOODNIGHT SWEETHEART.

SET PRICE DISPOSALS:

BING CROSBY IN THE HOLLYWOOD PALACE - 7" EP 22/- (3 Dollars)
CABARET/SUNRISE SUNSET/STRANGERSIN THE NIGHT-THAT'S LIFE/GOOD OLD DAYS

THE TV MR BING - With Andy Williams and Dean Martin - 7"LP 26/-(3 Dollars 50)

BING IN THE MACK SENNETT DAYS - 7"LP 26/- (3 Dollars 50) DREAM HOUSE/ JUST ONE MORE CHANCE/WHEN I TAKE MY SUGAR TO TEA/I'D CLIMB THE HIGHEST MOUNTAIN/I SURRENDER DEAR/FOR YOU.

So many members who have visited my home and heard it, have requested we re-issue what is perhaps the most famous message ever received from Bing personally - we are happy to announce the following re-issue - CIOSING DATE FOR ORDERS - SEPT 15 delivery late September.

A PERSONAL MESSAGE FROM BING CROSBY TO THE BRITISH CROSBY SOCIETY in 1957 - Featuring Bing Crosby with Buddy Cole at the piano. Playing time 12 minutes - 45 prn. Bing sings part of WHERE THE BLUE OF THE NIGHT (improvised words and also ALL THE TIME from CAPTAIN'S PARADISE, talks about current plans and sends good wishes to up and coming British star MICHAEL HOLLIDAY, as well as some of the club officers including longtime club luminary DOROTHY HARDIMAN. You can order this special club release by sending me 22/- UK, $2.50 Australia, $3 USA before Sept 15 (Overseas members should note a special supply of this eagerly awaited re-release will be ordered to allow for the late arrival of this notice overseas.

CLUB MEETING AT LEEDS - ENGLAND SUNDAY OCTOBER 5th

The now annual get-togethers at the Leeds home of MICHAEL CRAMPTON have become an essential part of the I.C.C,'s yearly programme and together with the other officers present, I will be looking forward to seeing many old friends at Michael's on the above date - The event opens at 3pm.

Bing continues to rate excellent press reports, many of them devoted to his past glories on the cinema screen - I particularly liked the following write up which followed the recent screening of THE ROAD TO MOROCCO on BBC 1 -

EVENING CHRONICLE - NEWCASTLE July 30th 1969 "IN MY VIEW"

One old film I was glad to see again turned up in the LAUGH WITH HOPE series on BB I last night. THE ROAD TO MOROCCO with the usual trio of Bob Hope, the Old Groaner and dorothy lamour, and this time with Anthony Quinn thrown in for good measure, was full of the old jokes about the Republican's, Crosby's voice, Hopes nose and the by now statutory pat a cake sequence. It was predictable, but nevertheless funny hokum. To try to unravel the plot would take most of this page, but the supreme entertainment was there in this, possibly the best of the 'Road' films You just can't beat a good clean laugh and there are plenty of laughs in what amounts to feature film length rubbish; would that there were more genial tripe like this instead of the ill natured humour we seem to get so much of.PP

Well that's it for another trip - we'll be back in October with more of "BING" till then, all best regards to you and yours, Sincerely, Frank

BING CROSBY
FRANK CAPRA'S
"RIDING HIGH"

A TRANSCRIPTION OF AN INTERVIEW GRANTED TO NORMAN BANKS M.B.E.

The following is a full transcription of an interview with the Old Master, as well as interviews with people connected or interested with the visit to USA of Melbourne's Ace Radio Commentator, Norman Banks. This was taken direct from Radio Melbourne 3AW, during the mammoth radio presentation of ten hours in three days of Just Bing. As you will no doubt hear fuller details from the hard working Australian Secretary, Keith (Cob) Hyde, it will suffice to give only a few preparatory remarks leading to the interviews. Norman, as an old friend of both Larry and Bing, went to the States at the invitation of Bing for this interview. Even so, this presented problems of trying to track Bing down. However, this was eventually finalized and the event completed - Then came catastrophe! The tape had not functioned!!! However, with much effort, not the least on Bings part, the interview was finally retaped, and Norman catching the plane back home with just a half an hour to spare, finally putting on the greatest feast of Crosby music, especially Hi Bing-Hi Jude, heard in Melbourne Town for many a year. Our thanks must go to Norman, and herewith are the interviews transcribed by

Thomas J. Northrope (Melb.)

Interview with Gil Perkins, Treasurer, Screen Actors Guild.

Norm. Well Gil, since we started off this morning, we've had a pretty buzy day, hav'nt we?

Gil. Yes, we've covered a lot of ground Norm. We went from here to the Screen Actors Guild where you met the executive Secretary and a few other people.

Norm. Engaging men.

Gil. Yes, great labour men actually. From there we went to the bank where we got that necessary money that you need to operate with-

Norm. Indeed!

Gil. From there to Capitol Records and from there to Bing Crosby's Studio which is in the old Paramount lot- later in our travels after we had been to Capitol Records and a couple of other places - we got to his new offices in Beverly Hills - and despite the fact we had been told he was still fishing in Mexico, we found from his Secretary he had arrived last night-.

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Intro. by Norm. 'On Tuesday morning, that was my second day in L.A., I had a early morning call from Mr. Guy Austin who writes for the Sydney Morning Herald and other daily's, also for Pix, People and Womens Day, and he came along to the Hotel, the Beverly Hilton to see me:

Interview with Guy Austin, Newspaper Corrospondent.

Norm. You could tell the story about Bing Crosby, as you know, we've been discussing. When last night I rang you through on the telephone, you said, 'Bings not here'

Guy. That's a fact, as a matter of fact (laughter) over the years I think all my collegues in this town, we say that Bing Crosby has always been a escape-oligist!; for being one of the most famous men in the world, I dont think that there is a newspaper corrospondent or magazine writer in this town over the years who did'nt get an assignment to interview Bing Crosby. So one must stand and develop one's corns, tripping over wires and things and wait possibly an hour to an hour and a half and then your contact will say 'Their just breaking up now, he's over there, we'll get him now', - and then you just turn your head for a single second or your contact would just make towards him and Crosby had absolutely disappeared into thin air!

****

Intro. by Norm. My buddy Bing Crosby looked as though he was slipping through my fingers and I will tell you quite frankly after that visitation by Guy Austin, I felt that most of my optimism had slipped away. But I was'nt despairing, I called Lillian, Bing Crosby's Secretary and she did'nt say anything positive, but 'I would suggest Mr. Banks, that you speak with Larry Crosby, Bings Brother. Do you know him?' (I knew him well) 'Well', she said,'he is in our office now, why dont you try to see him'. When I went into his office no one could have been more genial, more co-operative than Larry Crosby, Bings business manager for many years.

Interview with Larry Crosby

Norm. Do you have to do this very often?

Larry. Yes, I have to run him down. He has so many things going, and I'm supposed to keep track of him, but I have trouble too.

Norm. He has been in Mexico, has'nt he?

Larry. He's been in Mexico and Lower California fishing, then he's been up to his ranch, fishing and hunting -

Norm. Where's that, Larry?

Larry. Its up in Northern California, between Mt. Larsen and Mt. Shasta, and its got a beautiful stream and I'm dying to be there right now.

Norm. Well, you've shown us a few of the pictures, of yourself, and theres the proof of the pudding - I mean, you've got the trout there - no doubt about your fish stories on that occasion!

Larry. Well I've got the pictures so you've got to believe me.

Norm. I do indeed, but what a delightful spot!-

Larry. I love it and its just like being with mother nature - we can go down to the river and look at two snow capped mountains on either side and drink water with the Deer, and shoo the Geese and the Ducks and the Pheasants and the Grouse out of the way - its just lovely.

Norm. It's got the lot! Bing was down in Africa last year, I believe?

Larry. Yes, he was, not for the big game, he just went for the birds - a deal with A.B.C. Television on sport and hunting.

Norm. Now does this take him into other countries, in connection with this project?

Larry. Well right now, he's labelled to go to Iceland - I dont know what he's going to do up there, whether he's going to fish or hunt - I have to run him down- he does'nt confide in me as he should.(laughter) We have an office here for him - we've just moved, we have these new offices, we've decorated them all up and he has never been in - he's been in town a couple of times - he stays three days, does a job but he has'nt looked at his new office!

Norm. He has'nt been inside!

Larry. No! And we've got all his souvenirs hanging up there and we dont know if we did right or we did wrong. I dont know what!

Norm. Have you any chance of getting Bing nailed down so that I can interview him, Larry?

Larry. I've got him hog-tied! (Break in tape - an old Bing record played)

Norm. Larry, you've come a long way since those days, hav'nt you?

Larry. Yes we have. We came from a large family, a seven kid family and everybody working to get by and we did it the hard way.

Norm. And you've been with Bing right through the period, hav'nt you?

Larry. Oh, most all of it - as a matter of fact, I helped him start it. He took all my old ex-army clothes, and got in that old Ford and hit the road - And I gave him some money for cigarettes and he has'nt paid me back yet! (laughter) Oh yes, he's more than paid me back - he's given me a real fine job and he's a good boss!

Norm. Looking back over that period,only last week I was looking at a couple of old discs, they went right back to his earliest days and it was fantastic to hear this young voice - Its very interesting to think that here he is -

Norm (cont) still in the business!

Larry. Well, I think that his voice is even better. (so do all of us ICC men, Larry!) But music has changed and we're going along a little bit with it, but not too much - we want to see it come back to real music and real lyrics! We dont like too much rock and roll.

Norm. With regard to his business enterprises, he's got his irons well out in various directions, you mentioned some of his property's modestly, but of course he's been a very successful business man, has'nt he?

Larry. Yes, but he's had pretty good help!

Norm. I was only talking the other day about the advent of tape recorded music - I think Bing was one of the initiaters of this.in radio, was'nt he?

Larry. The story is that the man who produced the recordingsof records, was in the Army in Germany and he heard a tape recorder over there that sounded pretty good, it was'nt perfected so he brought two of them back and we perfected them down in our basement and sold quite a few of them to Radio stations and to the Government and then we sold out - for capital gain! and its called 'AMPACK'.

Norm. We've got one in our studios to this very day!

Larry. We probally sold them to you! (Laughter)

Norm. I'm sure you did!
Looking back over his illustrious career, what do you think was his outstanding moment? This is a big Question I know.

Larry. I imagine when he got the Academy award, would be one.

Norm. What was the film?

Larry. Going my Way.

Norm. Of course - that was a magnificent film, was'nt it.

Larry. This is unbelievable, even to me, we now say that he has sold over 300,000,000 (Three Hundred Million) Records!

Norm. I looked through the catologue and I dont find that difficult to believe, because through the years, there has been some fantastic hits, hav'nt there?

Larry. Oh yes. 21 Gold Records which he has sold over that time.
We have a lot of friends over in your country. We have a special one who used to be one of my fan girls over there. For her birthday, her husband is going to pay for a phone call to Bing and she's been calling here and missing him, and I've got to tie him down for her now.

Norm. Whats her name?

Larry. Her names Joan Costello, used to be Joan Westrobe of one of the fan clubs in New Zealand, and her husband said he would pay for this phone call to Bing and I've been doing my best to put it together.

Norm. Well, talking about going my way - I hope I'll be going his way tonight. You've been very kind and made a suggestion that may enable us to get together after all. What did you say to him? I would loved to have heard the conversation you had with him!

Larry. Well, we talked quite sharply to each other, (He talks more sharply to me than I to him!) (laughter) I said, 'Whaddaya mean pulling out so fast!'and He said, 'Oh I forgot'! (loud laughter) So I said,'We got to do something here - This man's came all they way from Australia , well', I said,'do you want to talk to him on the 'phone?' I said, 'It would be better in person'. And he said, 'He may come up here and we'll talk all he wants'. There you go!

Norm. I'm on my way to San Francisco now, and Larry, would you be able to tell him we are 'Going His Way'!

(Next Page for the BIG One.)

Interview with the Old Groaner himself, Bing Crosby.

Hi Bing!
Hi Norm!

Norm. Well this is like old times! It only seems, well, like this morning since I saw you!

Bing. Yes, we had a little bit of confusion with the equipment, that happens often though.

Norm. And you've been down to L.A.?

Bing. Well, I've been down to L.A. and did a few scenes for a little Television film that I'm doing with the family and came back; I was back here by 4pm.

Norm. Cant thank you too much for this, you know.

Bing. Its a pleasure. I was glad to get out of L.A. - It was smoggy, overcast and not very pleasant, had work and did not like any part of it!

Norm. Your a real San Franciscan now?

Bing. Yes, been here, what, six or seven years I guess.

Norm. Of course, you know, they should call you the elusive scarlet pempernel -

Bing. Why's that?

Norm. Well we've been looking for you, we followed you up here from Appapoco.

Bing. Yeah!

Norm. What were you doing down there?

Bing. No, not Appapoco, Baja, California (pronounced Ba-Ha)
Appapoco's on the mainland, Baja's on the peninsula.

Norm. Ah! Baja California. Yes this is where we started off with our enquiries! What were doing down there?

Bing. I have a little house down there, I go down for two months every spring with the family, and I take the children, and Kathryn has a teaching certificate so she has class every morning from 8 to 12 and then lunch on the beach and their free. We've found that after two months time that they come back to school to finish the term in Hillsborough and actually their head of the class, because, not that their bright, but they get a little more personal attention than they would in a class of 30 to 35 students.

Norm. And what is Dads schooling down their?

Bing. Huh! my school (Chuckle) Doing mostly fishing and swimming and a little snorkling, and some dove shooting, white wing shooting in season.

Norm. You do the snorkling, do you?

Bing. I have a boat down there, yes.

Norm. You'll have to be careful! We lost a Prime Minister doing that! We discussed this once before.

Bing. Ah- I heard about that, it was really a ghastly thing, was'nt it?

Norm. What depth of water do you go into?

Bing. Well, we go 25-26 feet, but Kathryn, she scubba dives, she takes down the oxygen tank. I dont do that. I just snorkle around. There are some sharks but we've never seen them in our area. Theres so much bait in the area, Sardines, Herrings, Mackeral - I dont think the shark would go after a human. Theres never been any case on record of a shark attack.

Norm. They might find you tasty!

Bing. No, I dont think so! I'm a little old, a little tough right now!

Norm. I was only saying today, by gosh you look well!

Bing. Thank you, your very kind.

Norm. Well of course, you've just had another months holiday!

Bing. Thats right!

Norm. What were you doing actually? Your doing a little snorkling, but wer'nt you on big game fishing down there?

Bing. Yes we have. I've been trying to catch a striped Marlin on a ten pound line for a world record, for about 7 or 8 years now, the world record I fear, is out of sight now. A fellow down there named Andy Anderson, a very expert, famous angler and he caught a striped Marlin on a 10 pound line weighing 256 pounds and the best I've been able to do is 226 pounds - theres a lot of angles, a lot of factors involved. First place, you've got to find a striped Marlin that big, second place, you've got to have a flat sea, with a line that is light, 10 pounds, and then you've got to have all the breaks, you've got to have him hooked properly, and you've got to have a good fast boat and boatman - actually, the boat is 75 per cent, I guess. So I think that I'll give up the ten pound line and just fish more or less for pleasure now. Try and get interesting fish, fish that are good to eat.

Norm. But you know Bing, when it comes to big fish, you aught to go to the Bay of Islands in New Zealand.

Bing. Oh, I know it there but this particular record I was after, theres no chance of getting it down there on a ten or 12 pound line. The big fish you have in those waters. But there was a chance to set the record on Striped Marlins here, but now its been set and out of reach. I dont think that anybody will ever equal it.

Norm. But they tell me that your off to Iceland!

Bing. Yes, I am going to make a film for the A.B.C. network. They have a program, a series they run in the winter called, 'The American Sportsman'. I've done five of them. Two with bird shooting and three with fishing. This is going to be Atlantic Salmon on the Luxor River in Iceland.

Norm. Have you been there before?

Bing. Never, I've stopped there on overseas flights, just while they fueled. No, I've never fished there.

Norm. But the fishing is good?

Bing. Well we made a survey up there, that is, a fellow up there who is in charge of such things for the film company and he went up there about a month ago, and talked with the guides and saw the records, and saw the waters and he is convinced that we can get some excellent films.

Norm. Now, how do you approach a film like this, Bing? Do you just fish and they take you fishing or whats the drill?

Bing. Well, I'll take the completed film. They generally open up with a long shot of the area with a narrator discribing the area where we are, then we come in, I'll be myself and probably a leading gilly (?) of the area who is familiar with the fish, the milling of the waters, the rivers, and he and I discuss the fish, what size they are likely to be, what their habits are, when they come up to spawn, when they go back to sea, maybe he'll have a fish or two we can display, and then he'll show the type of gear we're using, the type of tackles, the rods, the reels, the flys we intend to use, what he thinks are the best and then we'll go fishing; And from there to the finish it will just be - they have three camera's - there all in packs, the camera-men carry them on their back and the sound man carries his pack on his back, and they go right out in the water with us and back of us, of course, and we hope to hook some fish, and so some jumps, and they'll get a fish hooked and go underwater , and try to show us the fish fighting underwater with under-water gear, and they'll show, I dont know whether they tail the fish up there where they land them, or gaff them, or net them, what ever the custom is in the area. And then they will have long shots of the river, there will be two anglers fishing, the guide and myself.

Norm. And you've done others like this in other parts, other films?

Bing. Thats right.

Norm. Other films?

Bing. I did it in the River Derwent in England.
Norm. You did?
Bing. And then I did it for Marlin fishing in Baja, California, and then I did it at Marnee, Mahne (?) in California. This will be the fourth fishing film and I've done one of sand grouse in africa and one on quail in Nth Carolina.
Norm. You get around but you've never been down our way!
Bing. I keep promising myself and I'm going to. Ive read all the books on Australian and New Zealand lake and stream fishing, and I've read all the books by Zane Grey of course, and all the other salt water anglers who've gone down there. Ive a lot of friends who I've met from down there, I've a lot of friends whom have gone down there. My brothers been down there (Bob) a lot, my sons have been there entertaining and Dad has'nt made it yet!
Norm. We'll have to con-
Bing. That 15 hours flight frightens me. If I could do it in about six hops -
Norm. Quantas will do it for you in two hops - here to Honolulu -
Bing. Oh, I want more than that - Break it up -
Norm. OK, we'll fix it for you!
Bing. 15 hours you must arrive absolutely jaded.
Norm. How did you pronounce Quantas correctly- Most people here say Cantas?
Bing. I know Quantas, I heard the commercial! (laughter)
Norm. Bing, tell me this in regard to your most recent experiences, as I say the scarlet pimpernal has nothing on you, we followed you out from there, oh, whats the name of that Canyon out of L.A.?
Bing. Cold Water Canyon where we are on location making this film.
Norm. Cold Water Canyon, yes. Now what were you doing out there?
Bing. Well- its a film for TV - its a Half hour film - Mary Frances is the star- she plays Goldilocks - the story of the 3 bears. Briefly, the film runs in the following sequence. We're out fishing and catch a few trout, the family Kathryn I and the three children and discussion arises whose going to cook them. Kath says she'll cook them if we clean them. Some dialogues- airy persa flaries (?) and banter. Nathaniel and I and Mary Frances go to clean the fish down by the river - so he thinks (Nathaniel) he says he's bored so I said I'll tell them a story and they said 'What kind of a story!? and I said, 'Goldilocks' - Well they howl at the idea of children their age listening to the story of Goldilocks - But I start in - First we have a little song around the camp fire -
Norm. What is it Bing?
Bing. Oh its a song called 'You have to take a little longer look around you' and you see a lot of things you've seen before.
Bing Sings: 'You've got to take a little longer look around you,
Look around you,
And it may astound you,
Take a little longer look around you
And you might see more than you've ever seen before'.
So they told me they did'nt want to hear Goldilocks, so I told them they might see more than they ever seen before. So I tell them a story.
Then there's a disolve and they go into animation and there Mary Frances is Chasing a butterfly - She's live, live picture and then they tell the story of the three bears - the three bears are animated. The three bears are - Nathaniel will do the voice of baby bear, Kathy does momma bear, and I do Poppa bear - Its a story of the three bears and then Goldilocks breaks into the house, porridge, beds and all that except, then theres a big switch, which I won't tell you about because I want you to be surprised!
Norm. Right - Now this for whom this film?
Bing. Well, its for the National Broadcasting System.

Norm. Oh. For the N.B.C. - As a matter of fact, that was Nathaniel we saw in the baseball rigout?

Bing. Yes, we've just been playing baseball, we have a two-handed 'ball game here with a short field and a big soft ball.

Norm. He must work you round?

Bing. There was big work here! A big game too! Score was 14 to 14 - pitches battle!

Norm. Who was the referee?

Bing. We had the dog for umpire, the big labrador.

Norm. Look he neally devoured me this morning!

Bing. Just like a Labradour! He would'nt hurt you!

Norm. The bark of the Master was worse! (Loud laughter)
That call out of the window!

Bing. Well I heard this commotion out there and I thought, this is awful! People come all the way from Australia and they get attacked by a big black dog!

Norm. My only regret was that I did'nt have it on tape! For I've never heard Spanish spoken so fluently! And that four letter word! (Laughter)
Bing, getting onto the subject of your films, are you continuing to do film, Radio and TV?

Bing. Oh, every so often, something comes along that we'd like to think about doing, then the part is - well maybe its not cast right. The TV activities I do - there are 14 to 15 shows a year, and there all important shows, I think you get much better exposure, you reach more people through the medium of TV than you would with 10 pictures, and unless the picture comes along that would be a good picture and the part would be rewarding, there's no sense in doing them really; I've done quite a few of them! TV is a lot easier to do. The inducement is much more for the amount of work you put in - so thats it.

Norm. I was interested and thrilled of course, the last time I met you was in Hollywood Palace.

Bing. Yes, a little chore I do four or five times a year.

Norm. You laid them in the ailes, I remember - but its interesting. We dont have colour in Australia, but the show is in Australia.

Bing. Oh, you going to have colour soon?

Norm. Well the pressure is really on to get it.

Bing. You'll have to change all the sets - Well thats a big move then.

Norm. But you will agree, it does enhance-

Bing. Yes, yes, it does enhance inmeasurably any kind of show, sport, outdoors, its incredible what difference it makes - variety shows with production values, music and costumes, it just moves a show up in any language you know.

Norm. Bing, what about make up for TV and colour?

Bing. Don't need any make up to speak of, just a little eyebrow lining to punch up the eyes, thats about all I wear.

Norm. Of course you lead such an outdoor life, you've got plenty of colour in your cheeks, hav'ent you? and the sun tan-

Bing. Oh, the age I've reached, make-up is'nt going to help, Norm. (laughter)
It would take a calcimine job to make me presentable!

Norm. Talking of those media, goodness me, when you think of Radio, TV, Motion Pictures, whats your favourite medium.

Bing. I think the most fun, the most entertaining to me, the most amusing, I dont say the most important or the most productive, but I get a bigger kick in going down to the recording studio (you beaut! perhaps another Hi Jude!) and working with a good band and doing some good songs 'cause their all fella's I've known thru' the years, all good musicians from New York and here, and you always get good arrangements, competent conductors and its easy work and there's no make up and no wardrobe, and you can make as many as you want, till you get one right, and thats where you find it.

Norm. Mr. Crosby, I have a certain recording of yours where something went wrong and you departed from the lyrics and went into a little????? (loud laughter) It was one of the funniest things I have heard in my life. Do you have a copy of that?

Bing. I dont know if I have one or not.

Norm. You'd better keep it away from the children! You'd better lock it up!

Bing. Oh now Norm, it was'nt that bad you know!

Norm. It was beautiful! Today it would pass, I think.

Bing. With children of today, It would be used in the lobby!

Norm. Talking of records, I was impressed, incidently, you've got new offices in L.A., in Beverly Hills, and you hav'nt even seen them!

Bing. I hav'nt seen them. Are they impressive?

Norm. Most impressive, and Larry told me you'll probably tell him to shift every thing-

Bing. Oh no, I don't get in there often enough, like today, I flew down from San Francisco, left there at 10.15 and flew to Burbank, which is just near Hollywood, I was at NBC 5 mins after 11, I worked till 2.15, I caught a 2.45 plane and was back hereat 4 o'clock.

Norm. I thought you must have your own aircraft.

Bing. Its 500 miles each way.

Norm. Thats right.

Bing. Thats just like somebody commutting to work out in the residentual area in Melbourne.

Norm. And you fly into burbank. What airline would that be?

Bing. P.S.A Pacific South West Airlines - They have a flight every hour and I'm only six minutes from the airfield here and the NBC Studio's are only about seven minutes from the Burbank airport.

Norm. I must not forget this while talking about records, Larry is very thrilled to talk about that big disc you got for your 200,000,000 record.

Bing. Oh he is inclined to exggerate.

Norm. You can't kid me on this one! And what is more important, there has been 300,000,000 Bing Crosby recordings released.

Bing. Where did you get that figure?

Norm. I got it from a more authentic source than my PR man (loud laughter from both) But Bing, of all of those, that was of course-

Bing. If that figures correct, I'm going to have an audit on the recording Company's books for I hav'nt been paid off for that figure! (much laughter) I'm kidding of course!

Norm. Bing, tell me this, with regard to your wonderful recording history which covers so many decades and has always been facinating and stimulating, is there any one recording that you think was an outstanding one from your point of view, one that gave you great pleasure as a result of the pleasures it gave other people?

Bing. Oh from that point of view, you'd have to say the record that sold the most for that would be the record that gave the most pleasure. Otherwise it would'nt have sold. I guess 'White Christmas' there's no arguing that. But vocally the record that I - I sang some Victor Herbert songs that I thought were sung - for me of course - were well sung, and then I did a song, 'My Isle of Golden Dreams', which I thought was one of the best vocally I ever did, sold about 8 records I think!

Norm. No kidding! What about that wonderful waltz tune you sang with Grace Kelly?

Bing. True Love - nice song. I really liked that song.

Norm. Lots of warmth and feeling in it.

Bing. They tell me, of that old standard around here, that a lot of people are using it for weddings as they used to do for 'O Promise Me' and 'I Love You Truly'.

Norm. Do you miss those melodies? I'm thinking theres been such a change, has'nt there in idiom of the modern music even in romantic ballads of that type.

Bing. Oh, their still writing pretty songs, Norman, theres the modern writer of 8 or 10 years ago I thought some of the stuff they were writing, more or less imitated the rhythm and blues that everybody sang since W.C. Handley but the last 5 or 6 years these modern writers, Backraft(?), Russell, Webb and I cant think of all their names, have been writing some beautiful things, songs like 'Down Town', 'My Beautiful', and 'Up, Up, and Away', I cant think of them all, but they were well written, well done, 'Both Sides Now', 'Straight Life', 'Little Green Apples', and just as many-

Norm. There in your new album 'Hi Bing - Hi Jude'.

Bing. Yes, I thought I would throw them in, and you'd mention the album and I would get a sale or two in the back country-

Norm. I thought you didI You slipped them in very well. I'll tell you this, We'll make, create records for you out there, even now. Bing, this is sort of a new idiom is'nt it really?

Bing. Why?

Norm. This way, your approach to 'Hi Jude' is different from the Boo Boo Boo Do -

Bing. Well, its a song written - If your going to sing those songs you have to more or less sing them in the fashion in which they have been sung - I would'nt take 'Hi Jude' and do something different with it, because I don't think anybody would like it.

Norm. But I think that you have Bing, and I think that you have given it more character. (All ICC members will agree with you Norm.)

Bing. Really?

Norm. Yes I do, and the same thing applies to other numbers on THIS WONDERFUL ALBUM, which has been a success but after this, Brother, its going to be a knock out in australia*******
It really is, I imagine a change in the times, and you know, everybody changes attitudes and even music is effected by it, do you feel conscious of it?

Bing. Of the change?

Norm. Yes.

Bing. Ah yes, theres been a big change. These fellows, especially Bert Backraft who has written this big show, 'Promises, Promises' in New York. The first time you hear some of these songs, your baffled. There somewhat involved - the rhythms involved, but when you hear them a time or two, you become accustomed to what he's doing, and there exciting, really.

Norm. Doyou think the Beatles had anything to do with the change?

Bing. Yes, and a great deal,they've written some beautiful things, their very productive, very inventive.

Norm. Irving Berlin was one of your champs?

Bing. Yes, he's been a great man for me in many ways. Iv'e sung pretty near everything he ever wrote. I cant think of anything that he ever wrote, that I hav'nt, ever since I was a kid, I used to sing songs way back in '16/17 that he wrote when I was entertaining around the various parish halls fidelities etc.

Norm. What was the first song you ever sang in public, do you remember?

Bing. Yes. 'Just a song at twilight
When the lights are low' (Bing Sings)
I was about 12 in knickerbockers and my mother took me down to the Parish Hall - Great apathy - nothing happened - (much laughter)

Norm. Bing, your little girl, Mary Frances, she apparently has histronic ability- Is this right? real talent?

Bing. I believe so, In a strange way. You see her around the house, at school, on the beach, swimming and playing, she's quite an ordinary little girl,

Bing. (cont)but when she gets her wardrobe on, when she gees in front of the camera or an audience, her face changes, her personality lights up, she has a new glow. Something happens to her that is not easy to describe, but is immediately apparent, and this indica tes to me that she has some kind of instincts of a proformer and as soon as she finishes, she walks off the stage and starts playing with a yo-yo or kicking a football all over, and she's right back in the other character.

Norm. Bing, you notice this in all great show business people, dont you. They become alive all of a sudden at a given cue.

Bing. Hope is a good example of that. Now Bob, on a golf course, he's casual, playing golf and he's fooling around, and he goes to sleep sitting talking to you, but as soon as he walks on the stage, and gets that first big laugh, that first big round of applause, he pumped up you know and he's flying.

Norm. Bing, we were talking about good records, good recording and great moments in your life. 'Going My Way', this must have been a great moment in your life when you got your award.

Bing. It did'nt seem like it was a great thing at the time, for doing it was great fun, 'cause we were working with a marvellous director Leo Carey, and that great Irish actor Barry Fitzgerald, and I thought it was just a nice pleasent picture and I enjoyed doing it, and I was quite agreeably surprised to see it become quite a hit and produced as you say, an award for me, for Barry and for Leo too. And it has been played on Television here, I dont know how many times - Its a kind of a standard. - You never know, Hey!

Norm. Thats it over there?

Bing. Yes, thats Oskey!

Norm. I must take this a little further and ask you with regard to your fishing, which Larry said, 'Get him on fishing'. Up near Mt. Shasta, is it such a wonderful place?

Bing. Its a stream that rises right on the ranch from the lava beds, from out of Mt. Larsen, and the stream rises there and forms a river that is in some places, is as much as 15 to 20 yards accross. Its gin clear, full of brown trout and rainbow trout and you see them when theres a hatch, theres a big rise of fish, but there very difficult to catch. You've got to stop them. Its a challenge and if you go out there all day and get five trout, you've had a very big day. They run from $\frac{3}{4}$ lb to 8 or $8\frac{1}{2}$ lb. The biggest one I ever took was $4\frac{1}{2}$ lb. You know, very small fly, the bigger the fish, the smaller the fly. We use 16-18 hook, blue upright fly, or a ginger quill, or a black gnat. Well you've really got to work, and you've got to stop, and if you make a couple of casts over a rise, and you've put them down, you might as well move along, 'cause your not going to catch any fish up.there.

Norm. Oh, I wish people could see you here, sitting back with your feet on the arm of a chair and casting the line, and they would get a tremendous kick ot out of seeing you here in this wonderful library.
(very appealingly) For heavens sake, come to Australia, you would be given the reception of all time.

Bing. Thats my next trip, right after I come back from africa . on the safari in August, well I figure to come down there, that would be getting toward your spring, would'n it?

Norm. Right. Whats in the future now . Whats your plans?

Bing. Same kind of year that I had last year.
Four or five Hollywood Palaces, 2 specials on my own. Then I'm doing a show ... with Dean Martin, Jackie Gleeson, Bob Hope and maybe Andy Williams. Then Ive got the big golf tournament telecast odds and ends like that.

Norm. Bing, I look forwar to seeing you in Australia, thanks immensely for all . I felt like coming in sack cloth and ashes.

Bing. Not at all. I'm glad you were able to get back. Have a good trip. Good Luck.

THE GOLDEN YEARS

Edited by REG BRISTO

GEORGE ROBERT (BOB) CROSBY, LIVING IN THE SHADOW OF HIS OLDER BROTHER BEGAN A CAREER AS A SINGER WITH ANSON WEEKS ORCHESTRA.

HE JOINED THE DORSEY BROTHERS IN '35, THEN TOOK OVER THE REMNANTS OF BEN POLLACK'S ORCHESTRA TO FRONT HIS BOB CATS.

TODAY HE RIDES HIGHER THAN EVER IN SUCH CLUBS AS THE RAINBOW GRILL, NEW YORK CITY.

A FRANK MURPHY PROMOTION